



'Palace in the Pass' at an impasse

Controversial Palace in the Pass seems to be under siege by some angry neighbors.

Community, Page 1B



Ladner hits the 200-mark

Kiln native and long-time SSC head basketball coach celebrates 200th victory.

Community, Page 1B

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 110, NO. 4 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

TWO SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

50 CENTS

Sunday
Jan. 14, 2001

SOC meeting set for tomorrow

The Hancock County Community Task Force to Save Our Children will hold a Board of Directors meeting at the center located at 405 Necessaire Avenue on Monday January 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Umpires Assn. meeting Jan. 21

There will be a general meeting Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. for anyone interested in becoming an umpire for the Bay St. Louis Dixie Girls Softball League and Babe Ruth Baseball League.

The meeting will be at the Old City Hall, Second Street, Bay St. Louis.

For information, contact Lonnie Falgout at 760-3456, Hooty Adam, 467-6476; or Bay St. Louis Parks and Recreation Director Gus McKay, 643-7135.

StingRays slate Jan. 27 try-outs

Try-outs for the Gulf Coast StingRays will be Saturday, Jan. 27, at 1 p.m. at Commagere Field. Call 467-4404.

WHAT'S INSIDE
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TIDES

DAY	HIGH	LOW
Tues.	7:10 p.	10:07 a.
Wed.	7:21 p.	7:00 a.
Thurs.	7:51 p.	7:05 a.
Fri.	8:28 p.	7:37 a.
Sat.	9:09 p.	8:14 a.
Sun.	9:52 p.	8:54 a.



Photo courtesy of the Hancock County chapter of the NAACP
Hancock County will join the rest of the nation tomorrow in celebrating the life and achievements of famed civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Racism still exists, leaders say, but not quite as pervasive as it once was



BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

How would you judge a person? By economic status, style of dress, church affiliation, physical appearance ... or as an individual on his or her own merit, taking into account the kindness of his or her heart

and the depth of the person's character.

"You may think you understand, but you can't know what it is like to face the world in my skin unless you have walked in my shoes," said Bay St. Louis Councilwoman Connie Lamley.

What would you think of two teenage sisters who spent their time working in the fields

and who saved every penny so they could make their mother's dream of having her own home come true? They are the two older sisters of Diane Morris, NAACP Executive Committee member and wife of Rev. Lee Morris, president of the Hancock County branch of the NAACP.

HOPE-PAGE 3A



Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher
Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove encourages Hancock County's leaders to strive for greatness Friday at the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Banquet at Casino Magic's Entertainment Complex in Bay St. Louis

Hancock Chamber names Kiln native Citizen of the Year

Cleveland Wyatt honored for his years of service

BY GEOFF BELCHER

News Editor

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, joined by Gov. Ronnie Musgrove Friday at Casino Magic's Entertainment Complex in Bay St. Louis, honored Kiln-resident Cleveland Wyatt as its 2000 Citizen of the Year.

"This gentleman has shown," Chamber President Dusty Rhodes said Friday, "(that) his

tireless dedication to the Kiln community and surrounding areas for over the past 30 years is surpassed only by the love of his family and friends in Hancock County."

"He has always had the best interests of Hancock County at heart."

Wyatt was unable to attend the banquet Friday due to illness. The award was accepted on his behalf by his daughter Beverly and friend Larry Ladner.

Wyatt is currently chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Kiln Fire and Water District, with which he has

CHAMBER-PAGE 3A



Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher
Horace and Tammy Garcia worry about their future as members of the West Hancock Fire Department work to extinguish the blaze that consumed their home Thursday.

Family loses beloved pet, home in devastating fire

BY GEOFF BELCHER

News Editor

A Hancock County family is homeless following a fire Thursday morning that destroyed their home at 1055 Lower Bay Rd.

"I heard a popping-and-

cracking noise (from a wire) at the back of the house this morning and I called the power company ...," Horace Garcia said at the scene Thursday as firefighters from the West Hancock Fire

FIRE-PAGE 2A

H

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1-14-01 COMMUNITY EDITION To subscribe to The Sea Coast Echo, Call (228) 467-5474 FAX: 467-0333

18 Wheels of aggravation



Workers from Mike Pernicaro's Wrecker Service work Friday morning to upright an overturned 18-wheeler owned by LandAir Transport Inc. The driver apparently lost control of the vehicle in the westbound lane of I-10 about halfway between the Diamondhead and Kiln exits Friday morning, ran off the road over the embankment and flipped, still partially blocking the roadway. Traffic was slowed for more than two hours Friday while the truck was being removed. Emergency workers at the scene said no one was injured in the one-vehicle accident. The truck driver's name was not immediately available. The incident is still under investigation by officers of the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Pass Alderwoman Margaret Kalif announces she won't seek 4th term

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

In what was probably a surprise to the Pass Christian community, incumbent Alderman Margaret Jean Kalif announced last week she will not seek a fourth term on the Board of Aldermen.

"It was a difficult decision," Kalif said when she said last week. "But after much thought and after three terms, I have decided I am not going to seek re-election."

Kalif, a 7th grade English teacher at Bayou View Middle School who is close to retirement, said she plans to devote her time to pursue personal

interests, but she would not go into detail. "No, I'm not running for Mayor," said Kalif.

Kalif represents Ward 2, which comprises that part of Pass Christian running from Lang west to Davis on the eastern part of town. It includes the historic Scenic Drive area,

where she lives with her mother. She first was elected to represent Ward 2 in 1989, and has served continuously since then, winning re-election twice. In the 1997 May election, Kalif beat out challenger Joe Piernas Sr., by a 13-vote margin in the Democratic primary.

In 1995, Kalif and Pass Christian attorney Joe Kelley

unsuccessfully challenged Mayor Billy McDonald, who sought his first four-year term in office. McDonald, earlier, had won a special election to serve out the unexpired term of Mayor Ted Lawyer, who resigned, citing health reasons.

Kalif is a graduate of Pass Christian schools. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's in education from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a specialist degree from William Carey College. Qualifying for the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor's race opens sometimes in March, with the primaries scheduled in May.

Water, Sewer District dismisses its director

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Late Friday, it was confirmed that the Hancock County Water and Sewer District had fired its director, Ted Gauthier.

The action was taken after the five commissioners went into executive session behind closed doors, and reporters were not at the meeting.

Gauthier was appointed to the post only last June on recommendation of the five commissioners, who conducted

interviews of prospective candidates.

He came highly recommended with 17 years experience as director of operations at the Audubon Institute.

Gauthier and his wife have been living in Jourdan River Sores for several years and before taking the present job, he had been commuting to New Orleans on a daily basis.

Telephone calls to Gauthier and some commissioners were not immediately returned.

Fire

Continued from Page 1A

Department worked to extinguish the smoldering remnants of his home. "Now look at it."

Despite being distraught at the loss of his home, Garcia said he felt fortunate his daughter Jessica and son Justin were in school at Gulfview Elementary and that he and his wife Tammy were able to escape.

Still, his sister Eugenia Lauga said Friday, "They lost everything they had. They don't have anything now and they don't have any place to go."

Among the losses, Lauga said, were one of the family's prized pups.

"My husband crawled on his hands and knees to get in there and got three of them out," Lauga said. "Unfortunately, he

couldn't get that last one ... He was going back in there and Horace pulled him back out. Right when (Horace) grabbed him and pulled him back, that's when the front caved in."

Lauga is leading a drive to collect clothing and other necessary items for the family until their situation improves. She said people wishing to donate items can contact her at 512 Sellgrass Rd. in Waveland.

Hancock Bank has also set up a benefit account for the Garcias, the Horace and Tammy Fund, account number 1092 2064. Anyone interested can donate to the fund at any Hancock Bank branch location.

No people were injured in the blaze.

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Or a struggled and then re- that her te- She is In- Celestine was born in St. Louis years ago.

Of a child decided he ed a better than his f who work oil field became a versity pro- sor? He is Johnson, r Southern U Waveland band of D chair of Executive Hancock C

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"King w tor, his spe an overw voice," said people, ch and attitude

Labat's worked with his program to the King away sh 1972. Kin came to the King, as at the fun priests, a the presi College, B Labat. "T

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Those sonally ha very strai said, "and help in an asking for but good, county ... there are this gentle left out, l make our place and return, bu the whole.

Rhodes Vice-Presi also prese Pride Aw County Li

"In 199 bber embai plan to i

Hope -- King's legacy in Hancock County

Or of a young woman who struggled to educate herself and then returned to make sure that her ten brothers and sisters had the same opportunity? She is Inez Labat, sister of Celestine "Teeney" Labat, who was born in Bay St. Louis 102 years ago.

Of a child who decided he wanted a better life than his father, who worked in the oil fields, and became a university professor? He is Bill Johnson, retired Southern University Professor, Waveland resident and husband of Donna Holton, vice-chair of the Democratic Executive Committee in Hancock County.

Would you judge any of these people as unworthy to eat in the same room with you, sit on the same church pew, sleep in the same hotel, have the same educational opportunities, or even walk on the same beach? It may not seem possible, but each of these individuals has had one or all of these experiences and more. Why? Because of the color of their skin.

"I feel like a more normal human being by having certain opportunities available ... people don't mind eating in a restaurant with you now," said Teeny Labat, who had to travel from Bay St. Louis to Indiana to find a high school she was allowed to attend. "People are kinder, more friendly, more helpful ... you can have a genuine friendship (with a white person), and they might even hug you or kiss you, that's a change ... the whole idea of going into a church or public place and not being separated."

"King was an exquisite orator, his speaking enthralled me, an overwhelmingly beautiful voice," said Labat. "He moved people, changed consciousness and attitudes."

Labat's sister Johnny Yancy worked with King on many of his programs and was a friend to the King family. She passed away shortly after King, in 1972. "Kings father and mother came to the wake ... Daddy King, as they called him, spoke at the funeral along with two priests, a Baptist minister and the president of Morehouse College, Benjamin Mays," said Labat. "They all made some

fine remarks."

"I have observed that conditions have changed," said Labat. "King brought more sympathetic whites toward the situation, roused the interest of many more, and caused trouble too, among those who were not sympathetic ... he changed the feeling in his own people and he changed their attitudes."

When Bill Johnson, an Alabama native, was an Airman stationed at Keesler, he was impressed by the beautiful beaches. "But then I realized that I couldn't go on them, blacks were not allowed," said Johnson. Johnson was in charge of getting 166 Airman from San Antonio to Keesler by train. In New Orleans, he wasn't allowed in the station waiting room, until they found out he was carrying all the tickets. "They let me in and broke the law in Louisiana," said Johnson.

Johnson followed King's teachings from the very beginning when King was just a new preacher in Montgomery, AL, and joined up with Rosa Parks. Back then, when you traveled you had to arrange places to stay because most towns didn't have a black hotel, Johnson said. So King stayed with a lot of other ministers along the way. There was a lot of resistance to his ideas at first, even from other black ministers.

"He could bring people together, energize them; he was dynamic," said Johnson. "It was almost like you knew him personally ... he made me want to do more to bring about equality and justice."

Connie Lampley recalled a time when she and her professional basketball team traveled to a nearby high school to help raise money for the black students to have a prom (they were not allowed to attend the regular school prom). After the game, the girls decided to grab a bite to eat before returning to the coast.

"The owner of the restaurant met us at the door and told us we were not welcome, so we drove back without eating," said Lampley.

"I remember hearing King talk ... he changed my life, as he did so many lives, the person he

was, the power he carried, he changed the nation," said Lampley. "I can do things now that even my mother couldn't do, but we still have a long way to go ... people are still judged by the color of their skin, not who they are ... as a people and as a nation, we still haven't reached where we need to go," said Lampley. "To see people as individuals."

Diane Morris's son had an experience similar to Lampley's on a football trip with Bay High. "They said they would let the white players in, but that my son would have to eat outside," said Morris. "The whole team left ... it's hard to explain that to your child."

Morris said that in her home in the Delta there was a store where blacks were charged more. "I was just a kid, but I was good with math and when my mother sent me to the store, I knew I was being charged too

Continued from Page 1A

much," said Morris. "I went home and told my mother and she said, no honey, that's right, and I made up my mind right then that I wasn't going to just tolerate things the way my mother did."

"King's message wasn't just for blacks," said Morris. "He was fighting for equality for all people and if it were not for his dream, his vision, I would not think the way I think ... I don't want anything handed to me on a civil platter; I want to work for what I get ... just like King, I'm a dreamer and a fighter, I just want to be equal."

"King was a part of our daily conversations, the turmoil of those times is still painful to think about," said Donna Holton. "Now it is important to remember, to get young people involved so they can understand the importance of it all, and it is also important to move on."

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Martin Luther King Day Closings

Hancock County government facilities, city offices in Waveland and Pascagoula will be closed Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Also closed are area banks, post offices, federal and state government agencies.

Business hours will resume as usual on Tuesday.

Chamber

Continued from Page 1A

worked since its inception, Rhodes said, and has been instrumental in its growth and progress.

"Those knowing (Wyatt) personally have found him to be very straight-forward," Rhodes said, "and he never hesitated to help in any way he could, never asking for anything in return but good, sound growth for our county ... I can only say that there are many things about this gentleman that have been left out, his sincere desire to make our community a better place and gaining nothing in return, but the betterment of the whole, in lieu of a few."

Rhodes and new chamber Vice-President Jody Comprett also presented the Community Pride Award to the Hancock County Library System.

"In 1990, this chamber member embarked on a long-range plan to improve services and

facilities to its customers in Hancock County," Rhodes said. "It's administration and board of directors partnered with business, civic, education and government leaders to accomplish its ambitious expansion project.

"Its buildings have been featured in architectural issues of national magazines and its services have been featured in local, state and national media. ... In a decade when libraries across the nation have had to close branches and cut services and staff, the Hancock County Library Systems' administration and board of directors continue to expand its programs to Hancock Countians."

The award was accepted by Prima Plauche, the library system's executive director; and Joy Lee, chairwoman of the board of directors.

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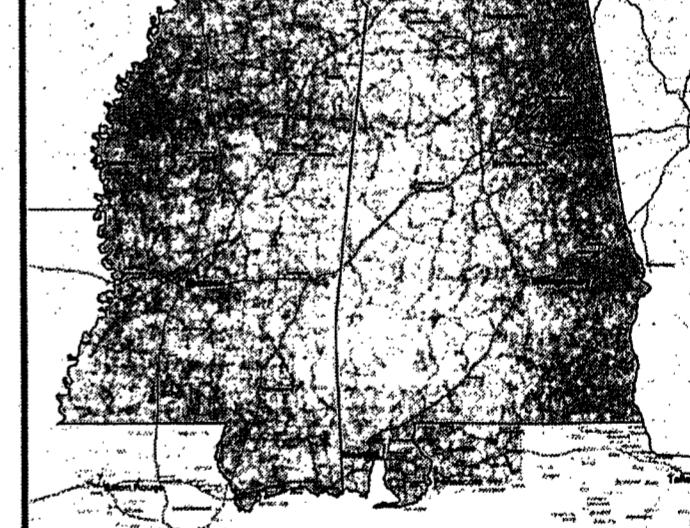
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2001

pg 4A

OPINION



Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas
Publisher Emeritus

In my column on Thursday, I said that Bay St. Louis would be sponsoring a new girls softball league.

It is the Dixie Girls Fastpitch League, and it is for girls ages 5-18, and some information we had received was not very clear on the comparison with the prior league.

One of the good things about the new Dixie Girls League is that it also gives girls ages 5-10 an opportunity for post season play which was not the case with the prior girls league.

Several years ago during Waveland's last administration, folks were told that McLaurin Street would be resurfaced between the Old Spanish Trail and St. Joseph Street after the two large housing units were completed.

Several motorists who frequently used McLaurin, which is probably the second most used entrance to the interior of Waveland, are just wondering when the road will be fixed.

Tons and tons of asphalt has been used over the years to patch and repatch the road and it is getting rougher riding with each repair. The two buildings that the last administration was waiting to be completed have been finished for many months.

I am not a road engineer, but the road probably needs to be started from scratch. Apparently there is not a good foundation under it, and that really needs to be replaced, but resurfacing it will soon crumble as it is now.

The Bay St. Louis Little Theater began on Friday its 2001 season with the presentation of Little Shop of Horrors.

There will be another presentation this afternoon at 2 p.m., also Friday, Jan. 19 and Saturday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Little Theater, 301 Boardman Avenue, off Dunbar in the Cedar Point area of Bay St. Louis.

There is a host of stars in the play which is directed by Jay Cocker. Set designs and monster are by local creature-creator Kevin Webster.

Stage manager is Arthur Bailey Jr.; producer, Scott Darrah; and music and vocal direction, Anthony and Sandy Starcher.

Tickets are \$12 each in advance and may be purchased at Flying Cups & Sakers Coffee Bar, Gifts by the Bay, The Purple Snapper, all in Bay St. Louis, and Morning Market in Pass Christian.

I know we are coming out of a cold spell, and if the trend continues this winter we will be going into a few more this season, but looking ahead a few months, we have the annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Garden Club's Spring Pilgrimage.

The annual Pilgrimage is set several weeks earlier this year, and the scheduled dates are March 8-17.

The area Pilgrimage day for Pass Christian is March 9; Diamondhead, March 14; and Bay St. Louis-Waveland, March 15.

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee-sponsored countywide cleanup, which is prior to the Pilgrimage, is scheduled on Saturday, March 3.

As a matter of fact, the Chamber's Beautification Committee will hold its monthly meeting a 10 a.m. Tuesday at the chamber's office, and all interested parties are invited and urged to attend.

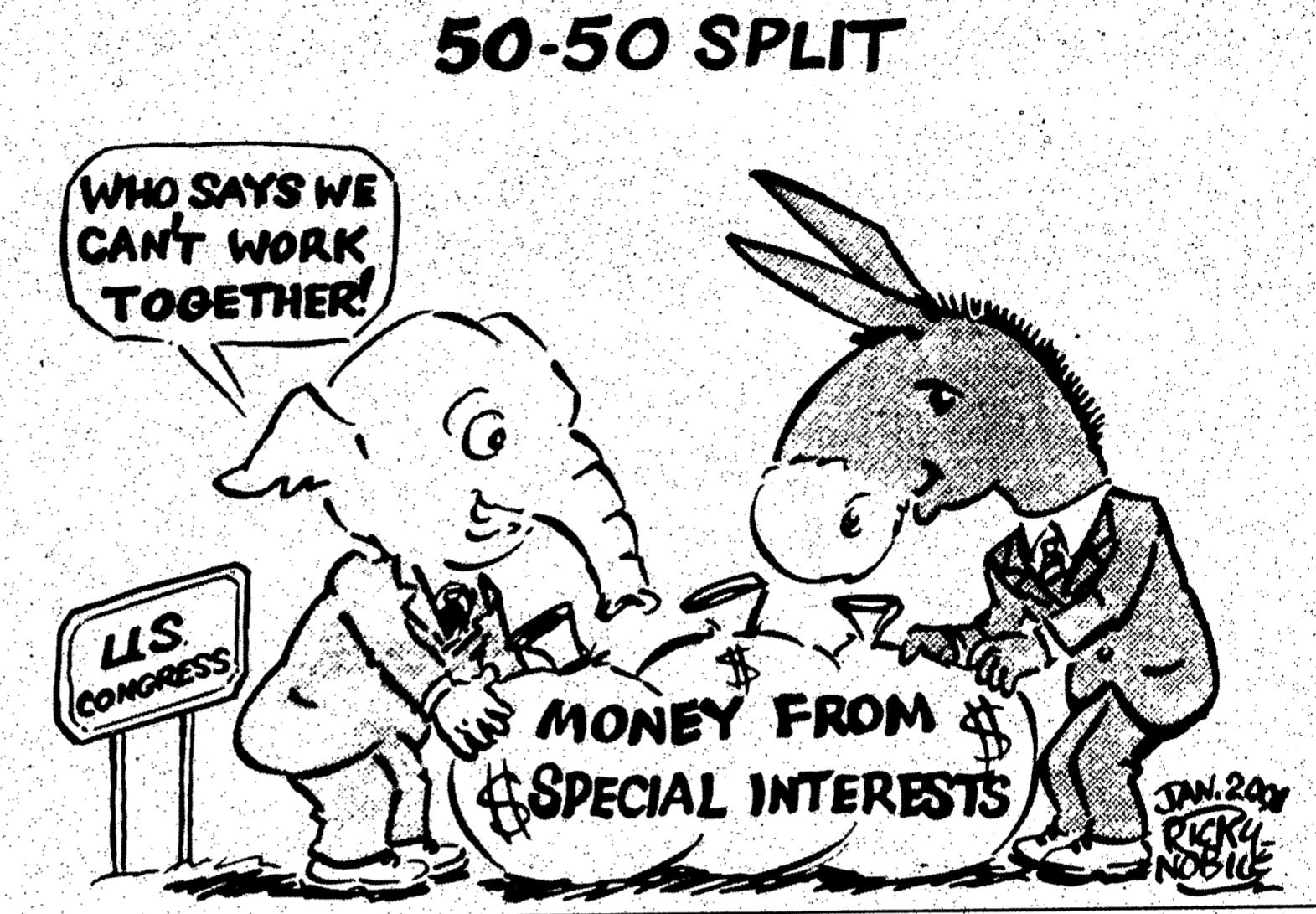
For further information, give the chamber a call at 467-9048.

Have you noticed the new arched sign in front of the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library building?

It is tremendous, and special thanks has to go to the Library Foundation of Hancock County and to Hester and Prima Plauche for the grant to fund the project.

The arch was part of the original plan in 1995 when the library was completely renovated, but no funding was available.

It just goes to show what the dedication of everyone involved from the staff, trustees, foundation, elected officials and citizens of all ages working together and looking to the future can do.



Letters to the Editor

Martin Luther King holiday is the celebration of a dream

To the editor:

The word "holiday" is derived from an Old English word which literally means, "holy day". As we observe the holiday for Reverend Martin Luther King, however, the use of the word to signify a day of commemoration is much more appropriate.

We certainly commemorate the man Martin Luther King on that day. But even more we commemorate his DREAM. His DREAM that people be considered, valued, judged not on their color, ethnicity, religion, size, weight, wealth, citizenship or

any other characteristic; but rather as human beings.

Much progress has been made toward the realization of the dream. Much more progress is needed.

I challenge all of us, both in our organizations and in our individual actions, to make this commemoration in 2001 the occasion of furthering the realization of Reverend King's DREAM.

LeRoy Modenbach
Executive Director
Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi, Inc.

Don't rush to judge police actions

To the Editor:

As I was reading the Sea Coast Echo and saw the article by Mark Edmonson on the Waveland Police Department, I had to laugh.

What he failed to mention is, he got a warning ticket for blocking the fire zone. On this warning ticket is the very law he stated in his article.

It was very good for him to take note of this law, but got mad because he violated another (Fire Zone Violation).

If the officer had wanted you to go to jail he does not need approval to do so as a law enforcement officer in the state of Mississippi, City tax dollars, as you called them, could certainly be used for better stuff.

However, there are certain visitors who fail to abide by parking rules which Barney Fife and Co. are paid to enforce.

The bottom line is, you violated the law and sometimes it is easier to blame someone else.

Maybe someone will call for letters for the policeman who put his or her life on the line every day or give C.P.R. to a loved one having a heart attack. Maybe to the officer pulling the child out of a wrecked car or responding to the man with a gun who is about to shoot someone.

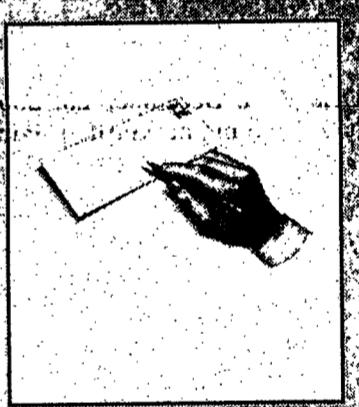
Well Mr. Edmonson, I pray that one day when you are attempting to run from such a person, the police officer has that "one bullet" available to assist you!

Officers do not put ads in the paper for praise or to make people think that they owe them. They just do their job.

Joe Bourgeois Jr.
Bay St. Louis

Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



The final part of the story goes as follows: I went to court on the 5th of January, and the whole thing was thrown out. The lady even stated that I could not be given a ticket for the seat belts without another moving violation first. She then asked what was the officer doing, writing tickets off duty in the Wal-Mart shopping center. I had to pay nothing, just had the inconvenience of going to the court.

Perhaps Ms. Hannah missed the point of the letter completely. It is not about the fact that I parked haphazardly, I did. I admitted it.

It is that if the local law enforcement officers want us to treat them with the respect that they think they deserve, then they need to treat us with like respect.

I have been vindicated in court. My case was upheld. I have also had over 15 calls from local outraged citizens who have experienced similar situations.

This officer may be an exception, one who abuses his authority, but, until my trust in the local law enforcement has been restored, I will continue to carry the camera and continue to feel the way I do. And apparently many others in the community feel likewise.

Mark Edmonson
Bay St. Louis

EDITORS NOTE: This is the last letter to the editor which the Sea Coast Echo will publish related to this incident.

— TECHNICALITIES —

By State Auditor
Phil Bryant
COUNTIES

Does the board of supervisors have authority to refund a court ordered bail bond forfeiture?

A No. A bail bond forfeiture refund must be ordered by a court with proper jurisdiction. (Attorney General's opinion to Sherard dated December 8, 2000)

Q What office hours must a justice court maintain?

A The board of supervisors has the discretion in setting the office hours for the justice court clerk's office to be open with a clerk present. Justice court judges may set their own office hours. (Attorney General's Opinion to Reynolds dated November 27, 2000)

MUNICIPALITIES
Q How must a municipal

motor vehicle be marked?

A Section 25-1-87 requires all municipal vehicles be marked with the name of the municipality in a contrasting color on the side with three inch letters and on the rear with one and one half inch letters. In lieu of the side marking a municipality may affix a twelve inch (width and height) decal. All markings must be of a permanent nature.

Q What are the requirements for municipal vehicles to be unmarked?

A The municipal board may authorize vehicles (no number limit) for police use when official markings would hinder official criminal investigations. The authorization must state the manufacturer's serial number, be recorded upon the minutes and sent to the State Auditor's Property Department.

The Sea Coast Echo

USPS 487-100

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Coalition for Families and Children: For children's sake

The following information highlights the CASA program. This is one of a series of articles submitted by Hancock County Coalition for Families and Children.

How does a 12-year-old boy tell a judge which parent he would rather live with?

How does a 16-year-old girl tell a judge that her father has been molesting her for five years? How does a 4-year-old boy, who has been placed in foster care, feel connected with his mother between supervised visits?

One answer leads to the Hancock County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. The CASA Program uses trained volunteers who are appointed by Judge Robin Gibson to work with an abused or neglected child.

CASA volunteers work only on behalf of the child and ensure that his or her voice is heard in court. They can monitor the family's progress toward reunification goals, or work with the foster parents to facilitate smooth transition into foster care, but the primary focus is the best interests of the child through the entire court process.

The CASA office is located in the Hancock County Youth Court Building at 126 Court Street in Bay St. Louis. The program is sponsored by the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and is supervised by Lisa Wilbourn.

Laurie Johnson acts as the program coordinator and handles the recruitment, screening, training, and assignment of the CASA volunteers.

Volunteers are prepared to step into their role of advocate for the child and are asked to commit at least a year to the program. Background investigations are conducted and personal references are contacted.

Additionally, personal transpor-

tation and liability insurance are required. Once a volunteer is screened, they are given extensive training which includes an initial 30 hours of education on a variety of subjects including child abuse issues, case management, cultural diversity and child development.

Many local experts on child abuse, communication, legal concerns, and related issues lend their time and valuable knowledge in this training effort.

While the number of volunteers is growing steadily, the numbers of children in the various court rooms around the county is rapidly increasing.

Some of these children have been in and out of their homes several times and feel as though no one has been listening to their fears and concerns.

That's where a CASA volunteer steps in.

This person is a constant link between the child and the judge who will make decisions on his or her behalf.

He or she works alongside DHS, therapists, guardians ad litem and other local social service agencies. The CASA volunteer cares about the child's needs and wishes, but also makes sure that each and every action taken considers the best interests of that child.

Often, the CASA volunteer touches the life of a child like no

other adult has been able to do. Volunteers are someone who listen and care about what this child has been through.

They are the one who makes sure that the child gets to the dentist to fill that cavity before his tooth decays completely.

CASA explains the court process so that he understands what will happen tomorrow when he has to walk in that room and face his mother again.

CASA is the someone who consistently picks up the phone to see how the child is adjusting to her third group home. CASA volunteers also gain a unique perspective into the life of a child because they can visit the children, parents, grandparents, or other involved parties in their own homes or current placements.

Volunteers must be flexible and willing to arrange their schedule to meet the needs of every party involved. This allows them to meet the child at school, at home, or in a foster care setting which can cultivate a more trusting, open relationship between the child and the volunteer.

CASA volunteers don't take children into their homes or buy them gifts or necessities. They offer time and commitment throughout the child's involvement in the court system.

Often, these children have never been given the gift of time or a promise kept.

CASA volunteers aren't in it for the recognition, rewards, or the feeling that everything will turn out better.

Sometimes families continue to have terrible problems, despite the best efforts to help them and children don't always think to express their gratitude to the person who spent the past year speaking on their behalf.

CASA volunteers recognize

that each child deserves a reaching voice for a child. I chance to tell his or her story and that the only reward for this work is the knowledge that they performed an extraordinary service in the life of an extraordinary child.

CASA is a powerful, and far-

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SPORTS

God, family, athletics earn SSC's Ladner 200 wins

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II

Staff Writer

Overlooking the Bay of St. Louis is the campus of St. Stanislaus College. And, nestled away among the buildings is the Brother Peter Memorial Gymnasium, where the St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws play their home basketball games. Or, could it be called "The house that Coach J built." For the past ten seasons, something special has been happening right under our noses at SSC. However, if high school sports didn't require us to keep track of wins and losses, not a soul would know about it.

Ten years ago, SSC had the foresight to hire a young and energetic person to fill the vacancy of head basketball coach - Jay Ladner. On Tuesday, Jan. 9, Ladner recorded his 200th victory as a high school coach. The milestone victory was a 61-50 division win against the Pearl River Central Blue Devils in Carriere. His career mark now stands at 200 wins and 121 losses.

Ladner came to SSC from the private work sector without any coaching experience and having worked for a pharmaceutical company on the Coast since graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi as a pre-med major. Ladner recalled, "That first year was a very memorable one for me. I'll be the first to tell you that I had no idea what I was doing. The seniors from that year will always hold a special place in my heart. They caught it a lot worse than any group after them. The administration of Brother Paul Montero, Dr. Michael Ryan, and Jerry Spell saw something that they liked. They felt that I could fit in at SSC. I owe my start to them. Jerry Spell has been the only coach to make the whole ride with me. I am forever grateful to Jerry Spell for what he has done and what he continues to do for me. The present administration of Brother Ronald Talbot and Brother Ronald Hingle have shown unwavering support to myself and our program. They continue to leaders in the support of our program."

But, that didn't mean he didn't grow up knowing basketball. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Larry Ladner of Kiln. The former Ladner is a coaching legend in the state of Mississippi. He coached at Picayune Memorial High School from 1960-71 before moving on to the University of Southern Mississippi as a basketball specialist in the Department of Athletic Administration and Coaching until his retirement in 1991. He was also Hancock County's first All-State basketball player while playing for Kiln High School in 1955.

Larry Ladner has followed his son's success with great enthusiasm. He and his wife Peggy can be found at every Rock home game toiling in the concession stand to help make the SSC program the best that it can be, but mainly to support their son. That family atmosphere is something that Jay Ladner has carried into his coaching philosophy. Larry Ladner commented on his son's accomplishment, "As a former basketball coach and his parent, I am extremely proud of the tremendous job that he has done in rebuilding and restoring the Rock-a-chaw pride and tradition in their basketball program."

While a father looks at how successful his son is, so a son looks up to how great a parent the father is. Jay talked about the influence that his father has been in his life and coaching. He stated, "I think that my decision to enter coaching was a calling. My father has had the biggest influence on my life, my coaching, and my philosophy of coaching. He is my best friend. While my father has been highly successful, there has not been any pressure whatsoever following in his footsteps. I consider



Echo staff photo by Joe Gex
SSC Coach Jay Ladner shouts instructions and encouragement to his players last week during what would become his 200th victory game.

myself extremely lucky to have someone like him as a confidant when times are tough. It is wonderful to have that type of relationship because I have learned so much from him."

In 1991, the SSC administration hired Jay Ladner to take over the Rock program from Chuck Genin who was retiring from coaching. In 1991-92, the Rocks took their lumps going 6-22. They followed that first season with a record of 8-22 in 1992-93. However, what has happened the last eight years has placed SSC basketball on the map of Mississippi high school basketball. During the past eight years, SSC has a record of 186-77 and counting. From Top Twenty rankings to Division Championships to State Tournaments, Ladner has led the charge. But, for as far as he has taken the Rocks, he has never gloated in the spotlight. Humility is another trait that exudes from his coaching philosophy.

Ladner's best year, as far as records go, was in 1998-99 when he led the Rocks to a school record 31 wins against six losses and a trip to the South State tournament in Mendenhall. He has also won 29 games twice in 1995-96 and 1999-00. In both of those seasons, he won division championships and participated in the South State tournament. And, in the 1995-96 season he took the Rocks to their first state tournament in Jackson since the early 1940s. Six players off that team went on to play college athletics and Terry Lawyer became the Rocks' first All-State performer since Jim Smith in 1941.

Throughout his 10 years as the Rock mentor, he has averaged 20 wins per year and owns a winning percentage of .620. But, at SSC that doesn't seem to be his legacy with his players. It is not about the wins, it is about the individual. His players come back year after year because they feel a special bond with Jay Ladner and the Rock-a-chaw basketball program. It is truly a family.

While Jay has coached many great athletes and over 20 have gone on to play collegiate athletics, he considers one other aspect more important - what type of people have they become. Every SSC basketball player has moved on to college for at least one year. What type of citizens these players have become is what really puts a twinkle in Jay Ladner's eyes.

Peterman, Dawson McCall, Maurice Singleton, Corey Charles, Nathan Middleton, Brandon Benoit, Vince Moran, Michael Lee, and Ryan Harrell.

Grady Willis, a current player at SSC, commented, "Coach has been like a father to me since I came here in the ninth grade. He has guided me both as a player and as a person. His most effective tool with me is his motto. God always comes first, then family, then athletics. He is a great role model for young people. His motto is his life because he impresses upon the players to do as he does not as he says. He truly lives what he preaches."

Willis is a star point guard for the Rocks this season and is being sought after by several school such as Pearl River Community College, Southeastern Louisiana, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Springhill.

Currently, SSC sports a 17-7 record overall on the hardwood. Ladner has won three division titles, participated in the state playoffs five times, and the state tournament once. He has coached over 20 collegiate athletes. He has won countless "Coach of the Year" awards. Ladner shows no sign of slowing down on the hardwood. However, it is not any of these

accomplishments that are the highlight of his career. Ladner maintains that the highlight of his coaching days have been to work with these young people in their formative stages. Ladner states, "When I see a former player that is successful in whatever they are doing, then that is bigger than any win. There have been many big wins on the court in the last 10 years so it is hard to rate one over another. My biggest win is to see my former players and their successes from the court carry over into their personal lives. That is my state championship. The 200 wins are not mine. They belong to the players. It is

a result of their hard work, dedication, and character. It is not about what I have done because I am just a guide. It is not a one-man show. There have been countless people involved with this program from administrators to coaches to parents to fans. I am forever in their debt for their kindness, generosity, and unwavering support."

As a decade has gone by, many memories have filled that gym on the Rock-a-chaw campus. Oh, how I wish those walls could speak. It has been ten years since that young and energetic coach took the reigns

LADNER--PAGE 7A

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SPORTS

SSC runs away with Mayor's Cup 82-42

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

The Tiger Dome was the site for the 2001 Mayor's Cup game between the St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws and the Bay High Tigers on Friday, January 12. The Tigers started out strong but the Rock-a-chaws turned on the pressure at the end of the first period and ran away with the cup 82-42. The MVP for the Rocks was senior post player Lee Howard who recorded a double-double in the game with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Jarrod Alexander was Bay High's MVP with 11 points and six rebounds.

While the Rocks claimed the annual trophy game, it may not have seemed like an achievable game before tip-off. The Rocks entered the game with just eight players that were not either hurt or sick. SSC's leading scorer and floor general, senior point guard Grady Willis, was out nursing the flu. However, an angel with the same last name came to the Rocks aid. "Archangel" Gabriel Willis started in his brother's place and led the Rock charge at the point. Although, he prefers the name Gabe.

SSC head coach Jay Ladner commented, "We had a lot of guys out sick or hurt tonight. I was very proud of the way the team responded to that challenge, especially our seniors. They picked up the slack. The seniors took it upon themselves to keep the Mayor's Cup at SSC. I was very impressed with Bay



Echo staff photo by Joe Cex
SSC and Bay High basketball players squared off in the annual Mayor's Cup game Friday at the Tiger Dome. SSC won the game 82-42.

High tonight. I know that they don't have some players that they had earlier in the year but they came out and took it to us. They put pressure on us, played very hard, and never quit. We had a very good night shooting the ball and played great defense."

Bay High jumped out to a 5-0 lead on the Rocks with Jarrod Alexander's trey with 6:33 left in the first period. The Tigers extended that lead to 12-7 with a Zach Nichols three-pointer at the 4:07 mark. Then, SSC went on an 18-0 run to end the opening period keyed by Jason Santiago's seven points. From that point on, the Rocks ran away with the cup.

SSC extended their lead to 45-21 at the intermission. In the second half, the Rocks outscored the Tigers 37-21 to make the final score. Bay High mentor Monty Noblitt stated, "SSC is a very good basketball team. Tonight, they shot the ball very well and played tremendous defense. We have not played a team that plays that aggressive on defense in a while. We started the game with great pressure on SSC but they eventually just took us out of our game with great half-court defense. We did not do a good job of taking away the things that we had worked on taking away; however, our players battled hard."

Holmes sweeps PRCC b-ball teams

Pearl River Community College was swept by Holmes in men's and women's non-division basketball action Thursday.

PRCC's women dropped their third straight game to fall to 9-5 overall with a 75-59 setback to the Lady Bulldogs, while the men fell 89-69 and dropped to 11-3 overall.

The Lady Wildcats played without the services of leading scorer and rebounder Mindy Ladner of Hancock County, who was sidelined with the flu. Head coach Ed Walley said two other starting players Dee Flennory of North Forrest and Brandi Ladner of Hancock County saw action despite suffering flu-like symptoms.

"We offer no excuses," Walley said. "We weren't 100 percent

healthwise, but despite that we didn't perform up to our capabilities. Holmes shot well...we didn't."

The Lady Wildcats' struggled in both halves. PRCC trailed 31-22 at the intermission and fell short 44-37 in the second half to the Lady Bulldogs.

Flennory paced Pearl River with 13 points, while Lori DeSilvey of Hancock County and Brandi Ladner (six rebounds), added 10 each. Hancock County's Jessica Pucheu and Michelle Small of New Orleans each scored six, Millie Graves of Bassfield five, Sarah Nabours (six rebounds) and Kara Primes, both of Poplarville, four each; and Quinisia Hatten of North Forrest one.

In men's action, lost the first half 43-33 and the second half 46-36 to take the 20-point loss.

From the foul line, PRCC was 20 of 31 (65 percent), while HCC was 16 of 23 (70 percent).

Copiah-Lincoln visits M.R. White Coliseum next Tuesday, tipping off a string of six straight South Division games.

"We're getting into the meat of our schedule," said Walley, noting that Co-Lin is undefeated at 14-0. "We've got to get well and get back on a winning track. We may have limited personnel, but we're practicing Sunday and Monday to get ready for Co-Lin."

Division rival East Central visits Thursday, Jan. 18. Women's game tip off at 6 p.m., followed by the men's at 8 p.m.

Diamondhead Women's Golf Association declares winners

Diamondhead Women's Golf Association Nines winners include:

Dec. 5, Trophy Day

First flight: low gross, Rose Stackhouse; low net, Kitty Gregoire; low putts, Emmy Swink.

Second flight: low gross, Jerry Guidroz and Jerry Ingraham; low net, Carol Perry; low putts, Betsy Lyons.

Third flight: low gross, Diana Johnson; low net, Shirley Smith; low putts, Flo Palmer; chip-in, Carol Perry.

Dec. 12, Christmas Scramble

First: Donna Hanna, Pat Byrd

Pass Ladies Golf Assoc. game results

Pass Christian Isles Ladies Golf Association Jan. 9 low net, low putts winners include:

Low net, Jolee Burns; low putts, a tie, Debbie Wolf and Mary Jo Delligatti.

Nine-Holers: Low net, Georgia Leyser; and low putts, Pat McClellan.

Ladner

Continued from Page 6A

of a proud and storied program. With his motto of God, Family, Athletics, many more wins loom on the horizon. With his philosophy, this coach has cut a trail and left a path for his players to follow. With humility, he has forged an indelible mark on the chosen ones who have worn the red and black of St. Stanislaus.

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Soccer update

St. Scholastica JH 3, OLA Jr. High 2

The Our Lady Academy junior high soccer team lost to St. Scholastica 3-2, Thursday in Covington, Louisiana. Laura Kergosien and Lakasia

Ducksworth scored for the Crescents on assists from Margaret Hadden and Caroline Boeltz.

The team is 3-1 on the season and will host Mercy Cross Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

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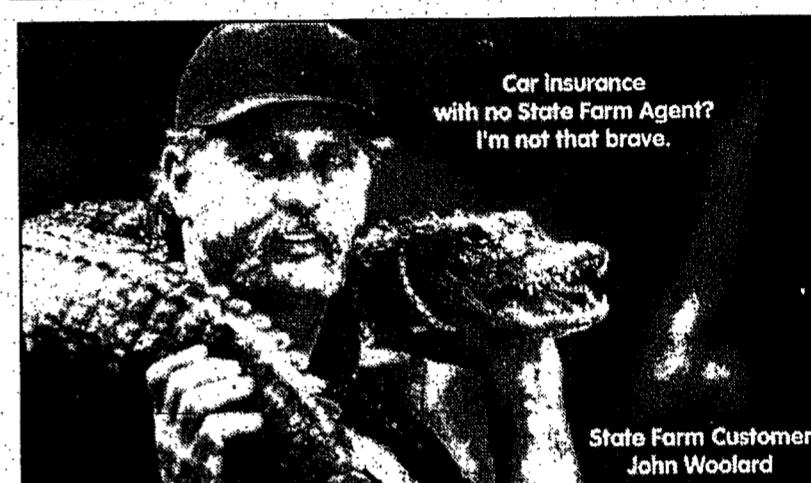
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Obituaries

WILLIAM AUSTIN

SONYA COPELAND

SARAH CULOTTA

RONALD EDELMAN JR.

JOHN LYLE ELLIOTT

RELLA GILMORE

ELLA MATTERN

LAURA PRITCHETT

CHESTER NULL JR.

LILLIAN MARY SONIER

WILLIAM AUSTIN

William Charles Austin, 77, of Bay St. Louis, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001, in Biloxi.

Mr. Austin was a native of Moorehead, Minn. and a past resident of Virginia, Minn. before moving to Bay St. Louis. He was a veteran serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the North Atlantic Armed Guard. He was a retired carpet installer and recently worked for GE Plastics as a security guard. He was a past Master three times in Continental Lodge 287 F & AM in New York and Carrier Chapter 105 OES, a member of the American Legion Post 139 and the VFW 4808 in Lakeshore.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Ewan Austin; a grandson, John Joseph Hicks; and his parents, Roy and Esther Hoffer Austin.

Survivors include two daughters, Nancy M. Bryan of Bay St. Louis and Lorraine E. Lanclos of Waveland; three sisters, Lola Kolstad and Beryl Mills, both of Bay St. Louis, and Margaret Archiba of Elma, Wash.; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be today, Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m., at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis followed by a service by the American Legion. A private service will be conducted at a later date.

The family prefers memorials to Hope Haven, P.O. Box 37, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

SONYA COPELAND

Sonya "Tony" Copeland, 64, of Long Beach, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2001, in Kiln.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William "Dick" Copeland.

Survivors include four daughters, Diane Jones of Pass Christian, Lou Ann Howard of Anderson, Ind., Pammy Williams of Kiln and Liza Peden of Cozad, Neb.; a brother, Lee Eldridge of Anderson; eight grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be private.

The family prefers memorials to Children's Miracle Network

c/o of any Wal-Mart. Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

SARAH CULOTTA

Sarah Isabelle Wilson Culotta, 91, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Arrangements are incomplete at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis.

RONALD EDELMAN JR. Ronald Earl Edelman Jr., 71, of Pass Christian, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001, in Pass Christian.

Mr. Edelman was born in Delhart, Texas, and was a long-time resident of the Gulf Coast. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean conflict. He was employed by Irby Upholstery and Pete's Top Man for a number of years. He was a member of the American Legion and was of the Baptist faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rubi and Ronald E. Edelman Sr.; two brothers, Clarence Edelman and Charles Otto Edelman; a sister, Betty Jo Hathaway; and a grandchild, Valerie Morgan.

Survivors include a longtime companion, Joyce Edelman of Kiln; a son, Louis Earl Edelman of Kiln; three daughters, Belinda Lee Moran of Pass Christian, Donna Louise Edelman of Bay St. Louis and Virginia Ann Edelman of Kiln; a brother, George Robert Edelman of Oklahoma; a sister, Bennie Marie McDonald of Lawton, Okla.; 11 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Visitation was held yesterday at Riemann Memorial Funeral Home, U.S. 49 North, Gulfport. A service will be held at 2 p.m. today in the funeral home chapel.

JOHN LYLE ELLIOTT John Lyle Elliott, 85, of Kiln, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Elliott was a native of Akron, Ohio and a resident of Kiln. He was a Presbyterian and a member of First Congregational of Akron. He was a Master Mason.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Herman Elliott; his parents, Shannon G. and Minnie Smith Elliott; and a brother, Gerald Elliott.

Survivors include two daughters, Vivian Wood of Nevada City, Calif. and Thelma Courtney of Kiln; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private.

The family prefers memorials to Children's Miracle Network

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

RELLA GILMORE

Rella Gilmore, 92, of Bay St. Louis, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Gilmore was a native of Lauderdale County, Ms., and a resident of Bay St. Louis. She was of the Episcopal faith, and a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Bay St. Louis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Moss A. Gilmore; her parents, James Marion and Callie Jones Taylor; three brothers, Les. M. Taylor, Pete Taylor and Therell Taylor; a sister, Eva Taylor Rowe; and a great-grandson, Wyatt Sanford Gilmore.

Survivors include two sons, Gary Taylor Gilmore and wife Lynda, and James W. Gilmore and wife Astrid; six grandchildren, Taylor, Tim, Sean, Ginger, Alexis and Jennika Gilmore; three great-grandchildren, Jackson and Reed Gilmore and Tommie Lynne Gilmore; and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held Monday from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church. Interment will follow at Garden of Memory Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers donations to Hospice Care Inc., 546 Menge Ave., Pass Christian, Ms. 39571.

ELLA MATTERN

Ella Tracey Mattern, 90, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2001 in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Mattern was a homemaker. She was a native of New Orleans and a former resident of Chalmette and a resident of Bay St. Louis for the past nine years.

She was the mother of Flora Plaisance. Survivors include four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was conducted Friday at Schoen Funeral Home in Slidell. Interment was in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens in Chalmette.

LAURA PRITCHETT Laura Mae Fortenberry Pritchett, 95, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, January 12, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Pritchett was a native of Magnolia, Miss. and a resident of Bay St. Louis for the past 36 years. She was a member of

Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Pritchett; her parents, James C. and Ella Blackwell Fortenberry; a brother, Gibson Fortenberry; and a sister, Mrs. Otero McCosker.

Survivors include two sons, James E. Pritchett of Bay St. Louis and John W. Pritchett of Baton Rouge; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service was conducted Saturday in Garden of Memory Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis was in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers memorials to Main Street United Methodist Church, 162 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 or Quality Hospice of the Gulf Coast, Inc., P.O. Box 549, Biloxi, MS 39530.

CHESTER NULL JR.

Chester Null Jr., 58, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Arrangements are incomplete at Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis.

A visitation will be held Monday from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church.

Interment will follow at Garden of Memory Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers donations to Hospice Care Inc., 546 Menge Ave., Pass Christian, Ms. 39571.

LILLIAN MARY SONIER

Lillian Mary Sonier, 85, of Bay St. Louis, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001, in Pass Christian.

Mrs. Sonier was a native of Waveland and a lifelong resident of Hancock County. She was of the Catholic faith, and a member of St. Clare Catholic Church at Waveland.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dominick Sonier; a son, Lauren J. Sonier; her parents, Alphonse B. and Lydia Bordages Favre, Sr.; four brothers, Alphonse B. Favre Jr., Milton J. Favre, Gerald J. Favre and Roger T. Favre.

Survivors include a son, Norman J. Sonier of Bay St. Louis; daughter Norma S. Karl Briggs of Clermont, Fl.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held today from 7 to 11 p.m., with recitation of the Rosary at 8 p.m. at the Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis.

A mass of Christian Burial will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Clare's Catholic Church at Waveland. The funeral procession will leave the funeral home at 10:30 a.m.

A graveside service will follow at Waveland Cemetery.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

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Notice of public hearing

Notice of Public Hearing on Ordinance to Regulate the use of Vehicles and Vessels in Mississippi Coastal Preserves and Marine Waters

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18 in the Public Meeting Room of the Bolton State Office Building located at 1141 Bayview Avenue in Biloxi.

Public comments will be received on the proposed Ordinance 19.000 (1), an ordinance to regulate the use of vehicles and vessels in Mississippi Coastal Preserves and marine waters.

The proposed ordinance will prohibit damage to the flora and fauna of the publicly owned coastal preserves and reduce the hazards of high-speed travel through the tall salt marshes through regulation of motorized land and water-based traffic as provided for under Miss. Code

annotated Section §49-15-304. Written comments on this proposed ordinance must be submitted to the Department of Marine Resources office located at 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, MS 39530 before 5 p.m., Friday, January 28.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes.

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Echo photo by Cecilia Howe

Grand opening

Seaside Mortgage, Inc., 1250 Old Spanish Trail, Bay St. Louis, recently celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting. The company specializes in mortgages and refinancing. Participants in the ribbon cutting ceremony included Helen Gaines, left, Barbara Redding, Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre, Christy Clark, owner Julie Rosson, Bobbie Tate, Robert Gavagnie and Deborah Ferguson.

Hancock Holding company reports record earnings

Hancock Holding Company (Nasdaq: HBHC) has reported record earnings of \$36.824 million, or \$3.39 per share for the year ended December 31, 2000, as compared to \$31.710 million, or \$2.91 per share earned in 1999 – an increase of 16%.

Included in the \$36.824 million earned in 2000 was an after-tax gain of \$2.4 million related to the first quarter 2000 credit card portfolio sale. For the fourth quarter of 2000, Hancock earned \$.85 per share, an increase of over 10% from the same quarter a year ago.

Excluding the impact of amortization of purchased intangibles, Hancock earned \$.74 per share in the year ended December 31, 2000, compared to \$.26 per share for 1999 – a 15% increase.

Return on average assets was 1.23% for the year ended December 31, 2000, and return on average shareholder's equity was 11.31%. For 1999, these returns were 1.05% and 10.27%, respectively. The company reported a net interest margin (tax equivalent) of 4.70% for the year 2000 versus 4.73% for 1999.

Hancock Holding Company Chief Executive Officer George A. Schloegel remarked, "While we are pleased with the company's performance over the last year, we remain focused on the challenges and opportunities that await us as we move into 2001."

Hancock benefited from favorable levels of loan growth and exhibited good expense control, but higher deposit costs contributed to a narrowing of

the company's net interest margin.

The provision for possible loan losses for the year 2000 totaled \$11.5 million, an increase of \$3.9 million from 1999. The increased level of provision was in keeping with overall loan growth and to ensure an adequate level of reserves should the nation continue the trend toward an apparent period of slower economic growth. The allowance for possible loan losses was 1.68% of total loans at December 31, 2000.

Hancock Holding Company, the parent company of Hancock Bank (Mississippi) and Hancock Bank of Louisiana, has assets of \$3 billion.

Founded in 1899, Hancock Bank stands among the top 100 strongest, safest United States financial institutions, according to Veribanc, Inc. Bauer Financial Reports, Inc., also awarded Hancock Bank five-stars – the highest rating possible – 23 consecutive quarters.

Only 28% of the banking industry have maintained that consecutive rating.

Hancock Bank operates 91 full-service offices and 130 automated teller machines throughout South Mississippi and Louisiana.

Bank subsidiaries include Hancock Investment Services, Inc., Hancock Insurance Agency, Hancock Mortgage Corporation, and Harrison Finance Company.

Investors can learn more about Hancock Holding Company and Hancock Bank at www.hancockbank.com.

Credit union recognized

Keesler Federal Credit Union received an exceptional rating by Bauer Financial Reports, the nation's leading financial institution research firm.

The rating is based on Keesler Federal Credit Union receiving 21 consecutive five-star superior ratings. The rating criteria are based upon data reported to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the governing body for credit unions.

Factors considered for the ratings include, but are not limited to capital, historical trends, loan delinquencies, profitability, regulatory compliance and asset quality.

Credit unions that receive the five-star rating are defined as safe and financially sound, operating well above required regulations.

Keesler Federal Credit Union

Tax workshop

The USM Small Business Development Center is offering a workshop, "Tax Tips for Small Business Owners" on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1-4 p.m., at the USM Gulf Coast Campus, 730 East Beach Blvd., Long Beach.

The workshop is for small business owners preparing to start their business or small business owners who have recently started their business.

For information, contact the USM Small Business Development Center at 228-865-4578.

Former editor Tonos opens consulting firm

Michael Tonos, the former executive editor of The Sun Herald, has opened a consulting firm specializing in written communication and media relations.

JMT Consulting (www.jmtconsult.com) is located in the Gulf Coast Business Technology Center in

Biloxi and provides businesses, organizations and individuals with a variety of media-related services, including:

- Publicity and planning for news coverage.

- Preparation and distribution of news releases.

- Consultation on working with the media.

- Freelance writing and editing of brochures, flyers, reports and other projects.

- Web site design and content editing; and skills training for writers, editors and others involved in communications.

Tonos, 48, has 27 years of newspaper writing, editing and

management experience, the last nine as executive editor of The Sun Herald. He also has been managing editor at The Sun Herald and the Vicksburg Post.

A resident of Gulfport, Tonos is a graduate of the inaugural class of Leadership Gulf Coast and a member of the Edgewater Rotary Club, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the Public Relations Association of Mississippi and the Knights of Columbus.

He also has served as president of the Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press and board member for the Mississippi Press Association.

For more information, contact JMT Consulting at 228-396-5795 or 228-896-3982 or by e-mail at info@jmtconsult.com.

Tonos



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1-12-01

COMPANY/SYMBOL	LAST PRICE	WEEKLY CHANGE
ALCAN ALUM/AL	34 1/16	- 1 1/16
AT & T/T	24 1/4	+ 4 1/16
AUTOZONE INC/AZO	28 13/16	+ 1/4
BELLSOUTH/BLS	43 7/8	+ 1 5/16
BOEING/BA	60 1/2	+ 1 3/4
CALGON CARBON/CCC	6 3/16	+ 5/16
CHEVRON CORP/CHV	80 1/16	- 13/16
COCA-COLA/KO	56 9/16	+ 1 1/16
CSX CORP/CSX	27 1/2	- 1 1/2
DUPONT/DD	43 3/16	+ 4 3/4
FRIEDE GOLDMAN HALTER, INC.	4 7/8	+ 1 1/16
GENERAL ELEC/GE	45 11/16	- 1 5/16
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	23 3/8	- 1 3/8
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	38 5/8	+ 15/16
INTL BUSINESS MACHINE/IBM	93 13/16	- 3/16
INTL PAPER CO/IP	36 15/16	- 4 9/16
K MART CORP/KM	6 13/16	- 5/16
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	33 1/2	+ 5/16
PARK PLACE ENT/PPE	10	- 3/16
PEOPLES FINANCIAL/PFBX	16	- 1/2
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD	33 5/8	- 11/16
REGIONS FINANCIAL/RGR	27 1/16	- 1/4
ROCKWELL INTL CORP/ROK	44 5/16	- 2 5/16
SOUTHERN COMPANY/SO	28 1/16	- 7/16
TENNECO INC/TEN	3 3/8	- 3/16
UNION PLANTERS/UPC	36 5/8	+ 3/16
WAL MART STORES/WMT	52 15/16	- 1
WELLMAN INC/WLM	15 1/8	+ 3/8
WHITNEY HOLDING/WTNY	39 13/16	+ 1 3/4

Submitted by Craig Foster, Edward Jones Co.

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COMMUNITY

pg 1B

Enjoy rose shopping during the winter



SOUTHERN GARDENING

By Norman Winter
MSU Horticulturist
Central Mississippi
Research & Extension
Center

After all of these years, I admit to still being hooked on David Austin English roses. Winter is a great time of the year for rose suppliers to try to capture your attention and dollars with pretty pictures.

David Austin English roses number in the hundreds, and if there was ever a group that looked like they were designed for a southern-style cottage garden, it has to be these.

They are all over the state, draping a picket fence here or a split rail there. They are superior shrub roses, too!

I know a private garden in Madison, Miss., that probably has the best collection of these roses anywhere in the country.

We have filmed these roses for Southern Gardening television, and I have watched as selections have been added. When the rose, Pat Austin, came out, I didn't trust the copper color shown in the catalog. Then I saw it in that Madison garden, and by George, it is a copper-colored rose.

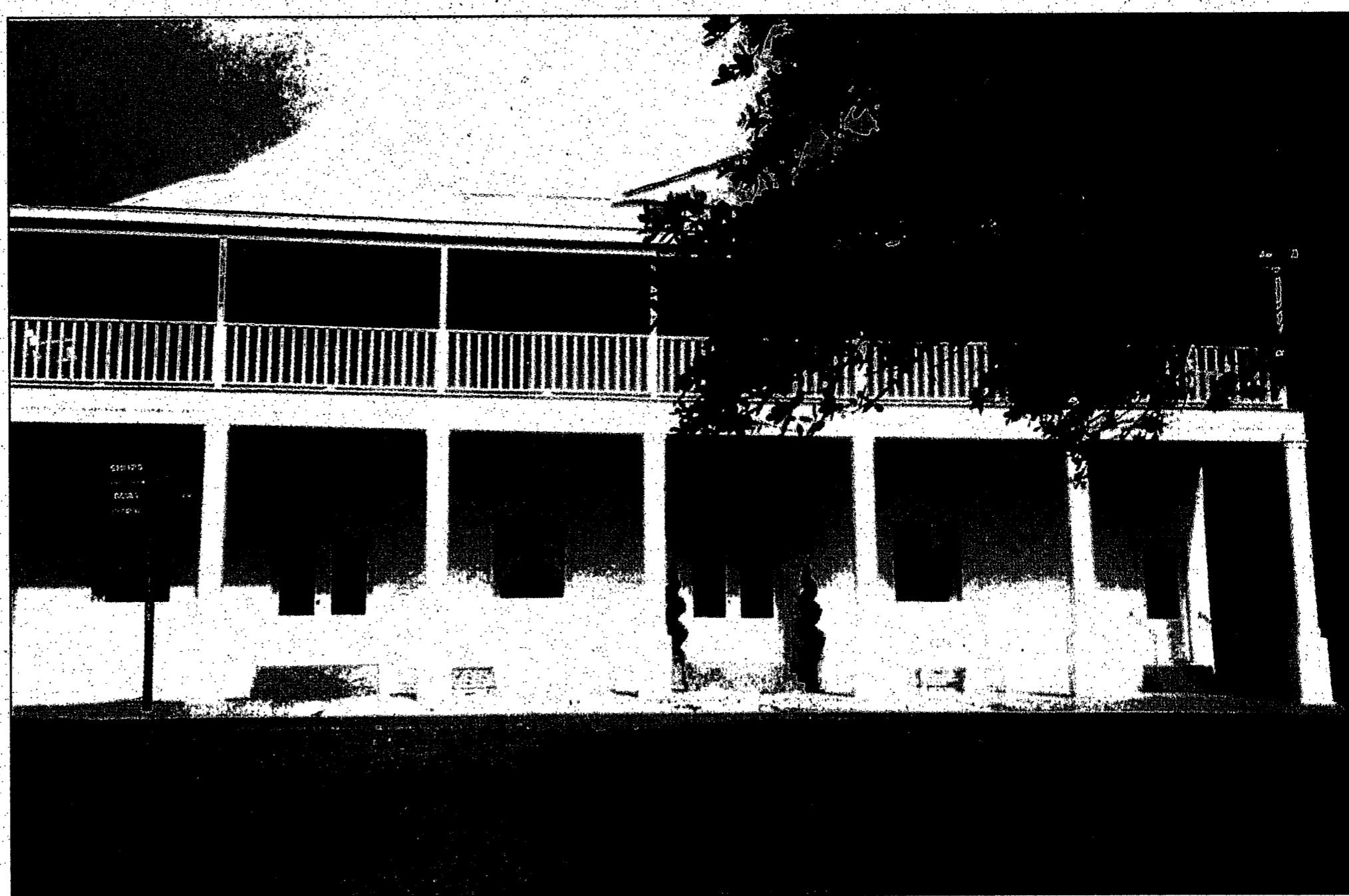
Why do I love David Austin English roses? As a famous author penned, "Oh let me count the ways." First, these are vigorous, supercharged roses. They have the look of old-fashioned cabbage roses, and the fragrance of most of these roses is unsurpassed.

Austin groups his roses into five strains. The first he calls the Old Rose strain, and it has the species rosa gallica in its breeding.

Roses like Wife of Bath and Mary Rose fall into this group. Also included is one of my

GARDEN--PAGE 5B

Palace in the Pass



One of the owners of the Palace in the Pass came down the steps this week to find an empty whiskey bottle and a note attached. They have asked police to investigate. The deteriorating former home of the VFW on Scenic Drive in Pass Christian has been spruced up outside and renovated inside by the new owners of Palace in the Pass. Owners Randy Tuggle and his mother, P.J. Hughes, say they have spent a fortune turning the former VFW home into a building where they hope to host private parties and charitable events. A white baby Grand piano is the focal point of the reception hall, which is filled with antiques and also features an Austrian crystal chandelier.

Angry neighbors storming 'Palace'

O BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer
wners of the recently-renovated VFW Hall on Scenic Drive in Pass Christian have asked the Police Department to look into random acts of harassment aimed at them.

Police were called to the Palace in the Pass at 401 E. Scenic Drive early Wednesday morning shortly after co-owner P.J. Hughes stepped outside to find an empty whiskey bottle and a note perched on a step.

Hughes said "Bye-Bye Boozos" was scrawled on the note. The incident came less than

24 hours after a meeting of the Pass Christian Zoning Board of Adjustment, where opponents to the reception hall managed to get a 3-1 decision in their favor. The board ruled the Palace was in violation of the city's zoning ordinance and could not operate a business for profit out of the building, for which they had obtained permits to renovate and occupy and a sales tax license.

Randy Tuggle said he and his mother, Hughes, have suffered several acts of harassment during the renovation and after the subsequent opening of the building.

He parks his late model

Mercedes on the Fleitas side of the building. "Several times I've come outside in the day and at night and have found nails under my front and behind my back wheels," he said. "At first, when there was all the construction going on, I didn't take it as a threat, but then when it continued and everything had been cleaned up, I knew it was not just a coincidence," he said.

"This is pretty serious. My mother or I could get hurt or killed if one of those tires blow when we're driving."

Tuggle did not file a complaint about the nails, but he claimed while the renovation was under way and he and his

mother slept in the ground floor area of what was once the bar when the VFW operated the place, "a man prominent in the community was walking by with a female companion late at night and banged his fist into the side of the house so hard," it startled him and his mother.

Officer Mike Lally is investigating the latest act of alleged harassment, and the bottle will be dusted for fingerprints.

Hughes and Tuggle said they have spent "a fortune" renovating and furnishing the reception hall, and they take the latest ruling as a temporary setback, not a fait accompli. They

Echo staff photo by Ed Lepoma

plan to appeal the decision to Harrison County Circuit Court.

"The majority of the business community supports us and 99 percent of the residents," said Tuggle. "It's sad that the Board of Zoning Adjustment listened to a vocal minority."

Opponents led by Pat Justice, who lives on Scenic Drive a block away from the Palace, have objected to the business operating in a historic residential area. They said the business would attract more traffic and parking problems, devalue nearby homes and destroy the

PALACE--PAGE 8B

Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!

*Beautiful Soup, so rich and green,
Waiting in a hot tureen!
Who for such dainties would not stoop?
Soup of the evening, beautiful
Soup!*

The Mock Turtles song to Alice was sung with tears in his eyes, but, of course, he must have shed mock tears. Because soup, good soup, should not produce tears, soup should be a joy to the eye, to the meal, and, above all, to the stomach.

Let's be clear on this before we go any further. The soup I am talking about here is soup made from scratch, not canned or package (just add water) soup. And, luckily for me, Stella

makes excellent soup! No, make that great soup! wonderful soup!

Over the years I've traveled to a few places and have had the pleasure of eating some very good food. I've found that some of the greatest dishes I've enjoyed are those made from a mixture of things that are available locally, that are added when they are fresh and at their height of flavor.

Paella is a good case in point. In Spain, the components of Paella, good Paella, varies with the season and even with what part of the country you are in. And it is good. The recipe changes, but the basic components that make it so good: fresh, local ingredients, are always the same. Mexican food (not Tex-Mex) is great too, but it

varies much the same way. If you're in the mountains in Mexico and want a great meal, don't ask for seafood. If you're on the coast of Mexico, don't mistreat your palate by asking for steak.

We on the Mississippi Sound are blessed with an abundance of what can honestly be described as fantastic seafood; seafood that half the country would give their eyeteeth to have. When next you are over in Pass Christian, take a drive down North Street and see what you find. Parked beside the seafood shipping facilities will be large trucks with Maryland, Delaware and Virginia license plates. These will be refrigerator trucks and their engines will be running.

They're waiting for oysters!

When loaded, each of these large trucks will make a non-stop speed run to deliver fresh oysters to restaurants in some poor oyster-starved northern city. And these will be our oysters. Oysters from oyster shoals out in the Sound with wonderful names such as Merrill Coquille, Square Handkerchief and Tail of the Square Handkerchief.

When in season, fresh crabs and shrimp caught in the Mississippi Sound move north from the Coast in much the same way.

I can picture some confused soul sitting at a long butcher paper-covered table at Captain Drinks Crab House near the end of Highway 3 in southern Maryland, cracking open crabs thinking he's eating Chesapeake crabs. Not so, baby

duck, those crabs came direct to you from Pass Christian, Mississippi in the back of one of those trucks.

But we fool those northern rascals; we eat all we can of those oysters, shrimp and crabs before we let them get away. We do equally proud with our fish.

Oh, the thoughts of redfish, sea trout, flounder, black drum, mullet, white trout, speckled trout... Not everyone is as lucky as I am. Stella catches a lot of our fish right in front of our house and then she cooks them! Now there's a combination that's hard to beat. And I do

Views From a Front Porch

by Paul ESTRONZA LA VIOLETTE
laviollet@mail.datasync.com

enjoy it.

What is extra nice is that all of these oysters, these crabs, these shrimp, these fish, all of these make great soups. Which is good. Because great soups say a lot about the cuisine of an area.

One of the principles of judging a good restaurant that Stella adheres to is the quality of their soup. Her theory is that if the chef will take time and care to make a good soup, he/she will take time and care with the rest of the meal. Like I've

VIEWS--PAGE 5B

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Attention Ladies! Have you decided now's the time to lose weight and get fit? If so, then Curves for Women is for you.

Curves for Women is conveniently located on Blue Meadow Road, Bay St. Louis, in Zuppardo's Bay Plaza where owner Teresa Anderson is on-site and ready to assist you reach your fitness goals. Curves for Women understands today's woman's busy schedule and can accommodate you with a fitness and weight loss program called "Quickfit". Quickfit is a thirty minute circuit training program whereby you alternate every thirty seconds from eight different hydraulic strength training machines to aerobic recovery stations. This burns more fat than any activity ever created. This type of strength training protects lean tissue and raises metabolism too. It is done to music with an instructor to coach you so it is fun, safe and effective!

Teresa Anderson has made many improvements to her Bay St. Louis location including a tanning bed, kiddie corner, treadmills, body fat analysis and extended hours for your convenience. Ladies, if you have lost weight only to gain it back, don't give up. Curves for Women is anxious to help you. Get serious about getting fit. Visit Curves for Women and get started today! Call 463-1130 for more information or stop by the Bay St. Louis location on Blue Meadow Road.

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The Sea Coast Echo

Hancock's Local Newspaper since 1892

Advertising is an investment in the success of your business. Every business has some kind of competition, either within the town, nearby city or from mail order firms. Your potential customers are being courted by your competitors. If you do not invite those customers to do business with you, they are likely to forget you and buy elsewhere. It is not uncommon for consumers to switch their trading from one store to another. Advertising helps to keep old customers and equally as important, make new ones.

Our community is constantly growing which means that potential customers are moving into the market area all the time. Advertising gives these newcomers a reason to visit your store.

Most businesses budget for their advertising expenses just as they do for other necessities such as rent, phones, etc. Smart business people realize that advertising is imperative to keep their business growing.

Another reason to advertise is that advertising is news! You profit by telling our readers what is new in your store. Through advertising, you can let a wide audience know the product lines you carry, the quality of your merchandise, the completeness of your service and the character of your store.

If you have something to sell, then you have something to advertise. When you have nothing to advertise, you are out of business. Advertising is designed to build your business and works best when it is repeated regularly. Consistent advertising pays off!

Now that you know some of the reasons to advertise, you're probably wondering how you can advertise most effectively. Surveys show that ads in local newspapers have more impact than in any other medium. The Sea Coast Echo goes into the majority of the homes in Hancock County. The Sea Coast Echo is full of interesting reading, it is a part of our community. People like to read about people and The Sea Coast Echo is full of pictures and stories about local people. The most important reason to advertise in The Sea Coast Echo is that our readers are your customers.

If you're looking for the best advertising value for your money, then you should contact the advertising department at The Sea Coast Echo. One of our advertising representatives will be happy to discuss the many advertising options offered by The Sea Coast Echo. For more information you may call 467-5474, Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, or stop by our office at 124 Court Street, Bay St. Louis.

Since 1892, The Sea Coast Echo is proud to be a part of your community.

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Designing Women

New Shipment of Mardi Gras Gowns
 JUST IN!!

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Specialty Sizing Available

Let us help you plan that perfect evening with our lingerie, bath and massage oils and mood music.

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What's for Lunch?

MENUS

JAN. 15-19

Bay St. Louis
Waveland
School District
Chef Salad, Milk
and Condiments
served daily

BREAKFAST

Monday: Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday: No School, Staff Development

Wednesday: Grits and Hashbrowns, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Thursday: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Friday: Cinnamon-Raisin Biscuit, Assorted Cereal, Toast, Juice

LUNCH

Monday: Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday: No School, Staff

Development

Wednesday: Chicken Pot Pie, Hamburger with Trimmings, Black-eyed Peas, French Fries, Fruit cocktail, Pineapple Tidbits, Yeast Roll, Jell-O with Whipped Topping

Thursday: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Tuna Salad, Buttered Carrots, Mandarin Fruit Cup, Fresh Orange Smiles, Chocolate Pudding, Crackers

Friday: Chicken Nuggets, Chili Dog, Cheesy Potatoes, Buttered Peas, Frozen Fruit Juice Bar, Fresh Fruit Bowl, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Yeast Roll.

Hancock North Central Gulfview

Charles B. Murphy
and East Hancock
Elementary Schools
Served daily:

Bread, Dessert, Milk and Condiments

BREAKFAST

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Cheese Toast, Juice

Wednesday: Chicken Pattie, Juice

Thursday: Egg Biscuit, Juice

Friday: Breakfast Pizza, Juice

LUNCH

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Foot-long Hot Dog, Chef Salad, French Fries, Cheesy Broccoli, Whole Kernel Corn, Chilled Peaches, Fruit Juice, Garlic Bread, Crackers, Oatmeal-Raisin Cookie

Wednesday: Vegetable Soup, Pizza, Tater Tots, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Fruit Crisp

Thursday: Fried Chicken, Hamburger, Chef Salad, Cheesy Mashed Potatoes, Southern Greens, Tossed Salad, Hot Cinnamon Apples, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Crackers, Gelatin

Friday: Chicken Spaghetti, Corn Dog Nuggets, Spicy Fries, Broccoli Salad, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Fruit Juice, Garlic rolls, Devil's Food Cake

Hancock High

and Middle Schools
Served daily:
Chef Salad, Bread,
Dessert, Milk
and Condiments

LUNCH

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Beef Stew, Cheesburger, Chef Salad, French Fries, Cheesy Broccoli, Tossed Salad, Chilled Pears, Fruit Juice, Garlic Bread, Crackers, Oatmeal Cookies

Wednesday: Chicken

Thursday: Fried Chicken, Turkey Club, Chef Salad, Tater Tots, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Yeast Rolls, Assorted Crackers, Fruit Crisp

Friday: Fried Chicken, Hamburger, Chef Salad, Cheesy Mashed Potatoes, Southern Greens, Tossed Salad, Cinnamon Apples, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Crackers, Gelatin

Turkey and

Friday: Taco Salad, Pizza, Foot-long Hot Dog, Spicy Fries, Broccoli Salad, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Peanut Butter Bar

All menus subject to change.



Budderkupp visits

Budderkupp the Clown visited North Bay Elementary for a Christmas performance Dec. 19. She was well received by students and teachers as she spoke about the true meaning of Christmas.

Animals, owls to highlight libraries' story hours

"Animals in Winter" will be the theme for the children's story hour at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library on Wednesday, January 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Animals in Winter, Owl Moon and Dear Rebecca, Winter is Here are the books to be read during the program. Susan Daigre, program coordinator, will assist the children in making animals and their tracks.

"Give a Hoot" will be the theme for the children's story hour at the Kiln Public Library on Thursday, January 18, at 10:30 a.m.

The Owl and the Pussy Cat and Owl Moon are the books to

be read during the program. Children will make an owl puppet.

Weekly story hours are held September through May. Programs last approximately one half hour, depending upon subject matter and planned activity.

Programs and activities are designed for pre-school age children three to five years old who are not part of a nursery or pre-school group.

For individual branch story hour information, contact Adrienne Bradley, Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library, 467-5282; or Sandra Ladner, Kiln Public Library, 255-1724.

Bay High students invite area donors to help them save lives

People who donate blood are community heroes. They know each pint of this irreplaceable fluid can save three lives. They know that keeping the nation's blood supply at an adequate level is essential for public safety.

Bay High School and the American Red Cross need to find more heroes right away.

On Thursday, Jan. 18, Bay High School and the American Red Cross will team up to host a community blood drive from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the school auditorium on Blue Meadow Road in Bay St. Louis.

For the first time, the Students Against Destructive Decisions, the National Honor Society and the Interact Club from Bay High School have joined forces to recruit blood donors from the school and the community.

Student organizers are hoping to collect at least 100 pints of blood on Thursday in an effort to sponsor the largest drive ever held at Bay High.

Everyone who donates blood will receive a "Got Blood?" T-shirt as a thank-you for giving their precious gift. The students are asking you to add your name to the list of community heroes by rolling up your sleeve for the Red Cross blood drive.

There is an 95% chance that you, a family member, or someone you love will need blood in an emergency. That blood needs to be ready; 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you wait until the emergency occurs, it's too late. The Red Cross needs at least 48 hours to safely collect, test and process blood before it is ready for transfusion.

Currently, there is a desperate need for all blood types. Normally, the Red Cross tries to maintain a three-day supply of blood, but there is far less than a one-day supply of O positive, O negative, A negative and B negative types right now.

The local blood supply is in real danger, and caring blood donors are needed immediately to prevent the delay or cancellation of surgeries in our region.

Severe weather in many parts of the country, lower than expected blood collections during the holidays and into January, an increase in the demand and illness here on the Coast have contributed to the

emergency shortages.

Blood is needed not only for accident or trauma victims but also for those suffering from other illnesses such as cancer, leukemia, hemophilia, sickle cell disease or surgery patients.

Anyone in good health, at least 17 years old and weighing 110 pounds or more, can help ease the shortages by donating the gift of life now.

Donors must wait at least 56 days between donations and should not give blood if they are taking antibiotics or feeling ill with a cold, sore throat, fever, cough or flu symptoms. Flu shots will not prevent a donor from giving blood.

For more information on giving blood or sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive, call the American Red Cross at 1-888-43BLOOD (1-888-432-5663).

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Which of These Costly Homesite Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Home?

Hancock County, a new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective, in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market. As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To hear a brief, recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-888-369-3515 and enter ID#1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call NOW to find out how your can get the most money for your home.

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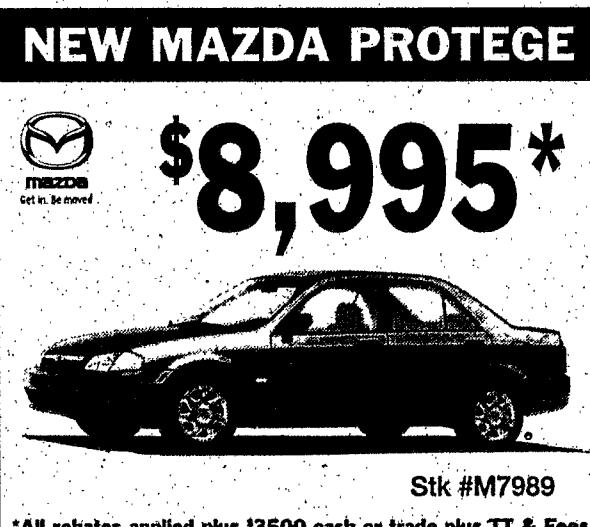
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Community services offered in Hancock County

Adult Literary Education

The Hancock County Library System sponsors an Adult Literacy Education Program at the Waveland Library Literacy Center, 333 Coleman Avenue, Waveland.

Classes provided include GED, basic skills, reading one-on-one, reading classes and more.

Day classes are Monday through Thursday. Evening classes are Mondays and Thursdays.

To register or for information, call Donna Hutchings at 467-9240.

ACOA and Al-Anon

ACOA and Al-Anon meet at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 5303 Diamondhead Circle, Diamondhead Thursdays at 8 p.m. For information call 255-9213.

Al-Anon/BSL

Al-Anon, Bay St. Louis chapter, meets Monday and Friday at 8 p.m. at 300 Third Street, Bay St. Louis.

Al-Anon is designed for families and friends who are affected by someone else's drinking. For information, call 466-5780.

American Cancer Society

Assistance to victims of cancer is available through Hancock and Harrison County chapters of the American Cancer Society.

Necessary items for patients, such as dressings, ostomy and sickroom supplies are available to those in need. Equipment which may be loaned to patients includes wheelchairs and hospital beds.

Assistance is available for transportation to qualifying hospitals.

Several rehabilitation programs are offered, including "Reach To Recovery", in which volunteers who have had mastectomies visit new breast cancer patients (with approval of physician) to assist in emotional, physical and psychological rehabilitation.

Battered Women

Free counseling is offered for Hancock County women suffering from emotional or physical abuse. Gwen Beck, outreach coordinator with Gulf Coast Women's Center, is available

each Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon at the Hancock County Youth Court building on Court Street. All cases are confidential. Call 435-1968 collect for appointment.

The Gulf Coast Women's Center, a United Way agency, also offers an advocacy program for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. A 24-hour crisis line is available by calling 1-800-800-1396.

Bay-Waveland Overeaters HOW Group

Bay-Waveland Overeaters HOW group meets every Tuesday, 7-8 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center's meeting room.

The HOW group is a discipline plan of eating using the 12 steps and 12 traditions for support.

There are no dues or fees. The group is self supporting through their own contributions.

For information, contact Ann at 467-6254.

Blood Pressure

Retired Senior Volunteer Program sponsor's free blood pressure on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9-11 a.m. at the American Legion Post 77, on Coleman Avenue in Waveland.

Hancock Medical Center Women's Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) conducts free blood pressure testing at the hospital, 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate)

Volunteers are needed to speak up for an abused or neglected child. Be a child's voice. Call 467-7945.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare recovery seminar and support group meets at Bayou View Baptist Church, 4709 Chamberlain Avenue, Gulfport, each Friday at 6:30 p.m. Child care provided through fifth grade.

DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics, including "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Your Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," "KidCare" and "Forgiveness." For information, call 228-896-7053 or visit the

Saint Paul Catholic School, Pass Christian

SECOND QUARTER GRADE 1

All A's: Thomas Allard, Bo Brennen, Dori Danielson, Brittany French, Elizabeth Moore and Jesse Hearin

A's & B's: Jonathan Allen, Sarah Campbell, Rachel Church, Cameron James, Sarah Lacoste, Emily McDermott, Camille Pepper, Alexandria Planchard, Colleen Rafferty and Shannon Wooten

GRADE 2

A's & B's: Jimmy Dorlin, Megan Sando and Kiana Welch

GRADE 3

All A's: Charlie Pritchard, A's & B's: Jeremy Forte, Andrew Hoang, Meyer Levy, Diana Nguyen, Marie Nguyen, Kris Oustalet, Brandon Steele, Courtney Taylor and Brianna Walker

GRADE 4

A's & B's: Cameron Bosley, Madeline Carter, Jessica Oliver, Augustine Tran and Brittany Walker

GRADE 5

All A's: Elizabeth Nguyen, Caterina Tran and Cecilia Tran A's & B's: Stephen Allard, Brian Mays, Vicki Rafferty and Nikki Vaught

GRADE 6

All A's: Alyssa Walter, A's & B's: Stephanie Allen,

Sean Bentz, Kaitlyn Bosley, Carolan Crowder, Ryan Hoda, Anthony LaMarca, Khanh Nguyen, Alexandra Phares, Lacey Raymond and Andrew Taylor

FIRST SEMESTER GRADE 1

All A's: Thomas Allard, Bo Brennen, Dori Danielson, Brittany French and Elizabeth Moore

A's & B's: Sarah Campbell, Rachel Church, Cameron James, Sarah Lacoste, Emily McDermott, Camille Pepper, Alexandria Planchard, Colleen Rafferty and Shannon Wooten

GRADE 2

A's & B's: Jimmy Donlin, Megan Sando and Kiana Welch

GRADE 3

All A's: Charlie Pritchard, A's & B's: Jeremy Forte, Andrew Hoang, Meyer Levy, Diana Nguyen, Marie Nguyen, Kris Oustalet, Brandon Steele, Courtney Taylor and Brianna Walker

GRADE 4

A's & B's: Cameron Bosley, Madeline Carter, Caitlin Church, Johnny Nguyen, Jessica Oliver, Augustine Tran and Brittany Walker

GRADE 5

All A's: Elizabeth Nguyen, Caterina Tran and Cecilia Tran A's & B's: Stephen Allard, Brian Mays, Vicki Rafferty and Nikki Vaught

GRADE 6

All A's: Alyssa Walter, A's & B's: Stephanie Allen,

website at www.Bayouview.org.

Family Child Center

The Family Child Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse is looking for volunteers.

For information on how you can help prevent child abuse, call 868-8686 or 865-0982.

Hancock County Humane Society

Humane Society meetings are held quarterly on the third Sunday at 3 p.m. at Jolly Rogers Printing, Hwy. 90.

All are welcome. For information, call 467-7686 Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hancock Co. NAACP

The Hancock County Branch NAACP meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Valena C. Jones United Methodist Church (fellowship hall), Sycamore Street, Bay St. Louis.

Rev. Lee Morris, president.

Homework Assistance Program

A Homework Assistance Program is being offered to Hancock County students through the Save Our Children Center at 405 Necaise Street in Bay St. Louis, 3:30-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

For registration information, call the center at 466-0401.

Hope Haven

Hope Haven meetings are every third Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Mississippi Power Co., Hwy. 90 and Dunbar in Bay St. Louis. For more information, call 467-7945.

Money Management

The Consumer Money Management Center serves the public by providing free financial consultations as well as informational literature and seminars for employers, educational institutions and civic and professional groups.

Information and assistance from the center relates to various aspects of personal money management including budgeting, credit repayment, insurance, and investments.

The service is sponsored by Mississippi State University and Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service. To set up an appointment call Hancock County Extension Office, 467-5456.

Parenting Classes

Free parenting classes will be offered in Hancock County at RSVP (Old City Hall, Bay St. Louis) for nine weeks, covering self-esteem, communications skills, nutrition, household management, discipline, child development and more.

Call Kat Fitzpatrick at Family Child Center for details or reservations, 868-8686.

Parkinson Support Group

The public is invited to all meetings of the Parkinson Support Group, which are held the second Sunday at 2 p.m. at Garden Park Community Hospital in Gulfport. For information, call 863-2929 or 467-0703.

Save Our Children

The Hancock County Task Force of Save Our Children will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. every first Monday of the month at the center, 405 Necaise Street, Bay St. Louis. For details, call Geraldine Lang at 467-9586.

Seizure Disorder Support Group

Those who suffer from a seizure disorder and need the support of people who know what that means, may join the Kim Berglund Seizure Disorder Support Group. No pressure, no judgment.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Classroom Trailer I at Memorial Hospital at Gulfport.

Call 865-3421 for details.

St. Vincent Thrift Store

St. Clare Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates a thrift store, City Hall Annex, Coleman Avenue. It is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 until 3, and Saturday, 10 a.m. until noon.

All proceeds benefit the needy regardless of race or religion. An information and referral service is available from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday. For additional information, call 467-0703.

Senior Citizens

Located on the corner of Booker and St. Frances streets, the center serves Hancock County citizens 60 plus years of age.

Under the Hancock County Human Resource Agency, the center provides classes in art, ceramics, framing, counted cross stitch, crochet, plastic canvas, shirt decorating, quilting and sewing.

There is also information and referral, counseling, entertainment and recreational field trips and health care services.

Transportation is provided through a contract with Coast Transit Authority to the center or to the local doctor, grocery store, bill paying, etc.

The center has a contract to provide frozen home delivered meals to 50 homebound seniors

each week and serves 20 hot meals at the center four days a week under a statewide food contract with Valley Foods. In addition, a potluck lunch is served on Friday prepared by the staff. A morning snack is provided with donations from local clubs, churches and individuals. AAA contracts with Lifeline for one full-time homemaker for about two hours per week for needy seniors to do light housekeeping or errands for them.

For information, call the center at 467-9292 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Justice Court Judge Joe Dobson received a special award from his friends, staff and co-workers recently after announcing his retirement effective Dec. 31. Those pictured include Dobson, seated, center; and, from left, front row, Debbie Ladner, Tommy Carver, Lucille Maisonneuve and Leslie Orange; back row, from left, Eric Moran, Kim Stone, Albert Biehl, Liz Martin and Kim Hoda.

Views -- chowder

said, I have traveled and I have found that this is an excellent rule of thumb. Good soup, good meal. Here on the Coast, great soups abound and the best of these are soups made from seafood brought dripping wet out of the Mississippi Sound.

Now is the time of the year for hot soup and what is better than a fish- or shrimp-based soup? An oyster soup. Oh heavens! Give me good oyster soup and I'll let you have our cat Holly to keep you company for a week. Give me some of Stella's oyster soup and I'll let you keep the cat.

Oyster soup is good! Here we are facing a brand new year and you are probably wondering how best to start it off. Well I know you are going to be busy tonight, but tomorrow, get yourselves some oysters and the fixings and follow the recipe Stella and I have included here. I promise that you will enjoy it.

STELLA'S OYSTER CHOWDER

1 stick butter
1 can whole kernel corn
1 large bay leaf
1 can chicken broth
1 cup chopped onions
2-3 cups milk
2-3 tbs. flour
2 large carrots
2 large potatoes
1 cup heavy cream
2 large sticks celery
Salt, white pepper and cayenne
1 qt. fresh oysters and their liquor

Melt butter over low heat in a heavy soup pot. Add onions and bay leaf, and sauté until

onions are translucent. Remove bay leaf. Add flour to the mixture to make a light roux. Set aside.

Peel and dice potatoes in half-inch pieces. Slice carrots and celery in quarter-inch slices. Cook all in broth until tender. Add can of corn. Use additional broth or water if more liquid is needed to properly cook vegetables.

Add roux to vegetables and stir until completely combined. Return to burner over very low heat. Add milk, oysters and their liquor. Continue to cook over low heat until oysters are heated and their edges become slightly curled. Add cream, salt, white pepper and cayenne to taste. Continue to heat until cream is heated being careful not to have soup curdle.

Serve with a green salad and French bread. Makes four generous servings.

Continued from Page 1B

favorites, L.D. Braithwaite, named after his father-in-law. It is a deep red that repeated nicely in my Mount Olive, Miss., garden and held its color well.

Many don't realize the David Austin group has some nice red selections. In addition to L.D. Braithwaite, other good red ones include Wenlock and Fisherman's Friend.

The second group is the Heritage strain. These roses are related to a popular floribunda, Iceberg, and include Heritage, Perdita and the ever-popular Graham Thomas.

The third is the Portland strain named after the Portland group of roses. Two of the famous roses in this group are Gertrude Jekyll and the Countryman.

Gloire De Dijon is the name of the fourth strain and an old noisette rose. Jayne Austin, Sweet Juliet and Evelyn are examples of this strain.

Evelyn is heavenly in fragrance and was chosen by Crabtree and Evelyn to be used in some of their product lines.

sun is essential, but afternoon shade is tolerated.

Good air movement helps the dew and rain dry quickly, discouraging disease. Plant on raised beds with plenty of organic matter incorporated. Avoid planting under eaves or gutters where bushes can be damaged by falling water.

Plant your roses where they are easy for you to watch and enjoy. This will also keep you tuned to any insect or disease problems. Water with soaker-hoses instead of overhead sprinklers to greatly enhance your success.

There are scores of David Austin roses to try. As you sit by the fire contemplating which roses to choose, you also may want to cast your vote for David Austin English roses.

Editor's note: Norman Winter is a horticulturist with Mississippi State University's Extension Service. His office is located at the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center at 1320 Seven Springs Road, Raymond, MS 39154.

Garden -- roses

Sometimes it's the everyday stresses of life that get people down and rob them of their energy or joy. If you've ever felt that way, it might help to know that you're definitely not alone!

And, if you want some motivation to help you live each day to the max, plan to attend a free seminar coming in January.

Slidell Memorial Hospital and Medical Center will present the program, "Live, Love, Laugh and Learn" on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the SMH Founders Medical Building Conference Rooms at 1150 Robert Boulevard.

Slidell resident and motivational speaker Dianne Sehmi will present a humorous and dynamic seminar. She promises that participants will learn and laugh their way through the

managers, private clubs and organizations and cruise lines.

She describes her own life as "one wild ride," and sums up herself this way: "I like to consider myself an educator, a motivator and also a humorist."

Light refreshments will be served. Registration for this seminar is recommended. To register, call 639-8909 or 1-800-259-2200, ext. 8909.

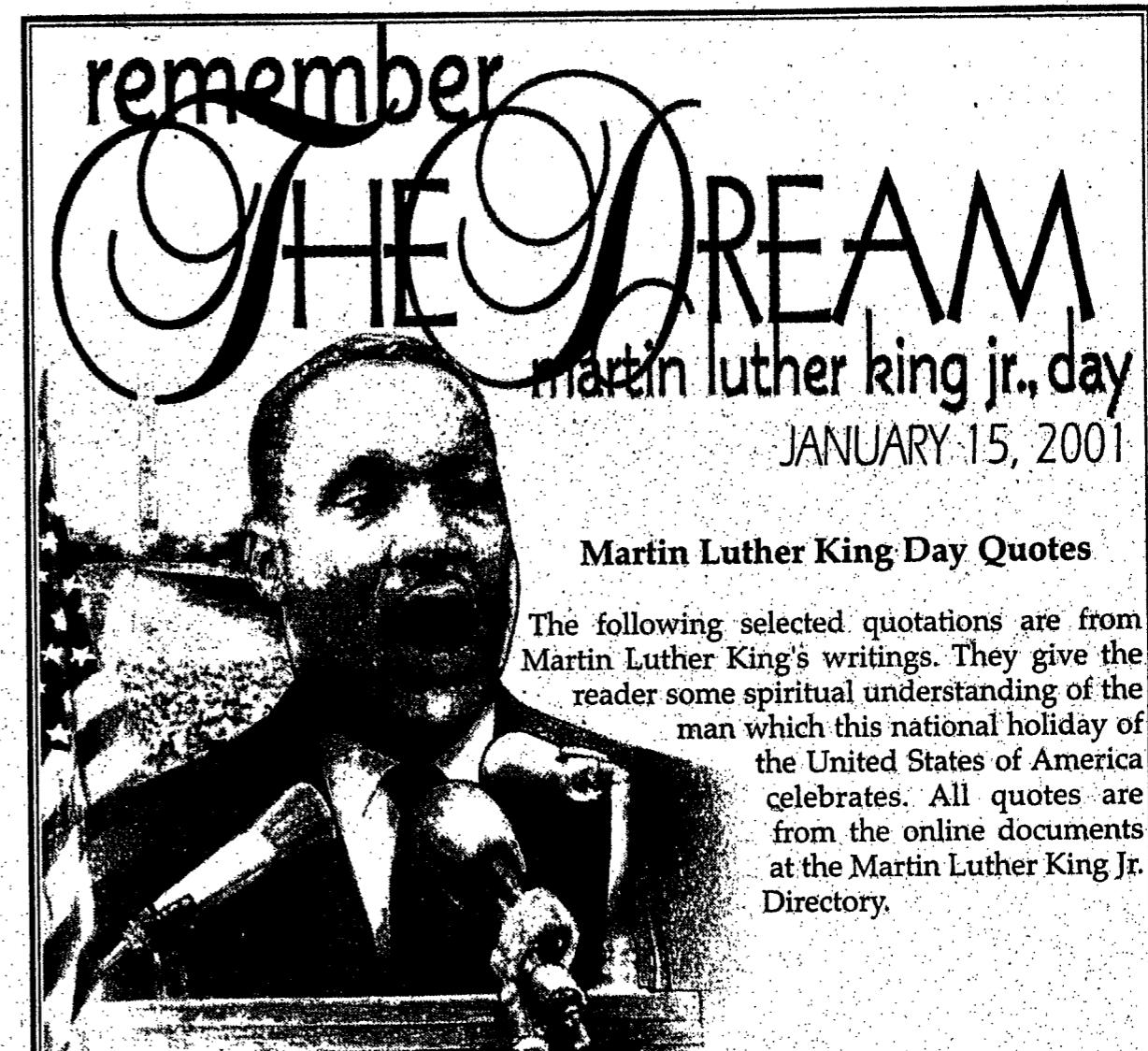
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Martin Luther King Day Quotes

The following selected quotations are from Martin Luther King's writings. They give the reader some spiritual understanding of the man which this national holiday of the United States of America celebrates. All quotes are from the online documents at the Martin Luther King Jr. Directory.

The Negro and the Constitution (in The Cornellian, May 1944)

We cannot be truly Christian people so long as we flaunt the central teachings of Jesus: brotherly love and the Golden Rule.

The spirit of Lincoln still lives; that spirit born of the teachings of the Nazarene, who promised mercy to the merciful, who lifted the lowly, strengthened the weak, ate with publicans, and made the captives free. In the light of this divine example, the doctrines of demagogues shiver in their chaff.

America experiences a new birth of freedom in her sons and daughters; she incarnates the spirit of her martyred chief. Their loyalty is repledged; their devotion renewed to the work. He left unfinished. My heart throbs anew in the hope that inspired by the example of Lincoln, imbued with the spirit of Christ, they will cast down the last barrier to perfect freedom. And I wish my brother of blackest hue possessing at last my rightfull heritage and holding my head erect, may stand beside the Saxon--a Negro--and yet a man!

Address at March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

Now is the time to make real the promises of God's children.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of God and the sons of slaves will be joined in the warm brotherhood of freedom and live out the true meaning of its creed - we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

This will be the day that all God's children will be able to sing with new meaning. We shall sing in the sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died in the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every church, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

Nobel Prize/Acceptance Speech (December 1964)

I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land.

Most of these people will never make the headlines and their names will not appear in Who's Who. Yet when years have rolled past and when the blazing light of truth is focused on this marvelous age in which we live -- men and women will know and children will be taught that we have a finer land, a better people, a more noble civilization -- because these humble children of God were willing to suffer for righteousness' sake.

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presentation.

Sehmi says she gears this program toward helping people take a realistic look at both their professional and personal lives - downshifting where possible, reducing stress levels and laughing at themselves.

In "Live, Love, Laugh and Learn," she helps people learn to live for today and enjoy the moment.

"It's about developing a new positive attitude," she said.

Sehmi, who grew up in St. Tammany Parish and stayed to raise her family here, is now the manager of Patient Relations at SMH.

She has given workshops and programs for banking executives, local schools, technical institutions, hospitals, state conventions, medical office

managers, private clubs and organizations and cruise lines.

She describes her own life as "one wild ride," and sums up herself this way: "I like to consider myself an educator, a motivator and also a humorist."

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AREA DEVOTIONAL & DIRECTORY PAGES

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE

By Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD



The good news is never old

The U.S. Army has had it going on for years with one of the all-time great slogans anywhere in the world, "Be all you can be."

Very puzzlingly, the Army has decided to change that slogan. This has all the appearances of a case of sloughing off the old because it is old, where one or a few people hired to sloganize came up with a new wrinkle mainly to justify their hire. So the now pitch: "An Army of one."

Trouble is, at least to my taste, the new slogan is vapid, says little and falls quite flat. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," people, especially coaches, are wont to say. Not only was "Be all you can be" not broken, but it is difficult to see how the Army could have done better.

"An Army of one" says nothing about pride or accomplishment, whereas "Be all you can be" challenges each individual to reach the very zenith of one's potential, talents, personality and character.

Once we achieve the goal of that slogan, there is nothing else of worth in life to pursue.

That old Army slogan, "Be all you can be," is rivaled perhaps only by the Sam Food Club slogan which management also mysteriously took out of circulation: "You are our boss." Since this slogan is so powerful and meaningful this is my second time writing about it.

Very different in meaning and scope from the Army slogan, the Sam's slogan gives the very root of what our most basic relationship to each other should be.

Although servitude is a very dirty word, service is one of the most necessary, fundamental, honorable and pleasing of all words.

Why Sam's would remove a huge winner which once hung in huge block letters at the front of their stores beats me. All the other slogans and explanations of service used by other companies fall far short of that four-word slogan which is all-inclusive of what a worker's attitude should be.

And, as we observed not long ago, the very fact that we occupy space here on earth dictates that we pay some kind of rent. Otherwise, we are nothing but freeloaders. Of course, the rent we must pay translates into service of some kind, in some fashion, in varying degrees according to our vocation.

All this is reminiscent of the humble, hair-tingling words of Jesus: "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

There is no human relationship more radical, more gripping or more important than the boss-laborer, master-servant, controller-controlled scenarios which take place in the lives of every one of us. Most people, naturally, want to be the boss, the master, the controller.

In no uncertain terms, Jesus warns us that striving to be in control will do more than lose us Brownie points. It will ruin our relationships and, sooner or later, cause us to self-destruct. The controlling ways of the worldly may seem to be a lot of fun, but ultimately they corrupt and destroy.

The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them, are addressed as "Benefactors." But among you it shall not be so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant" (Luke 22:25-26).

Just in case you are thinking this a goody-goody type of mindset which will not fly at all in the "real" world, think again. All courses in the social graces, salesmanship, motivation, psychology, and people management have one strategy in common: to convince others that we will serve them best.

And all those courses play out the same way in life. All of us flee those who would control us in a selfish way, while we gravitate toward the people who seem bent on serving us, on meeting our needs.

Now back to the Army. They obviously reworked "that" other bookend of life Jesus gave us: "I came that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Only by being all we can be will we ever have life to the full.

"Be all you can be" was said equivalently by Jesus over 1970 years ago.

The Amy and Sam's feel compelled to rework their slogans periodically, because all earthly slogans come and go. On the contrary, the mandates and instructions of Jesus are perennial, everlasting, ever-refreshing. The only news which never grows old is the Good News.

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Abraham was a wanderer and a nomad. "By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise" (Hebrews 11:9).

Abraham had direction. He was on a search. "He was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

It only comes around but once a year

Many exciting events can only be enjoyed once every year. Think about the list: your anniversary, Christmas, New Year's Eve, your birthday, the MS Walk.

If that last one does not sound familiar, you have been missing out on one of the great annual events. But don't worry, it is never too late to start a new tradition.

This year the Mississippi Division of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold its 12th annual Walk on March 31. The walk presents an opportunity for you to help the over 2,000 in Mississippi with MS. The Society is always looking for first-time walkers and volunteers to join the legions of seasoned veterans.

"The walk is very important to our organization," said Philip Messner, division manager. "Every year it helps raise the money we need to fund breakthrough research as well as programs for people with MS."

Past research has led to the development of four drugs for the treatment of MS, Avonex, Betaseron, Copaxone, and Novantrone. Anyone diagnosed with the most common form of MS should see a physician about one of these treatments.

"This year's walk has two goals. In addition to raising funds for research and client programs, we are trying to educate people with MS about the option of these drug treatments," he added.

To raise the funds necessary for the continuation of such research and empowering programs for people with MS, walkers collect pledges for completing the route.

This year's walk will be nine sites statewide: Jackson, Columbus, Hattiesburg, Meridian, Picayune, Bude, Monticello, Ripley and Kosciusko.

Walkers enjoy each other's company as well as the snack stations and dedicated supporters that they run into along the route.

"This event is always so much fun. Sometimes I find it hard to believe that it is this easy to help so many people," said Irene Guthrie, veteran of walks. Sixty cents of every dollar raised from the Walk will stay in the state to help Mississippians and their families dealing with MS. The rest goes toward research and national programs for people with MS.

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system. People with MS, which is usually diagnosed between the ages of 20-40, face unpredictable symptoms that can range from numbness and blurred vision to paralysis and blindness. Because of its unpredictability, the age at which it manifests itself, and the fact that over 70% of people with MS are women, the disease often has a devastating impact on families.

People with MS are often young mothers worrying about whether or not they will be physically able to raise their children or continue their careers.

The National MS Society supports programs that help ensure people with MS will live their lives with as little disruption as possible. The Society advocates for the empowerment of people with MS.

With all its efforts in research and programs, the National MS Society is dedicated to ending the devastating effects of MS. Since its inception, the walk alone has raised over \$100 million dollars toward MS research and programs for people with MS.

If you would like to know more about Multiple Sclerosis, the walk, or the Society, contact the Mississippi Division of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at 601-856-7575.

For information 24 hours a day call 1-800-FIGHT-MS, extension 1, or visit www.nationalmssociety.org.

The "Word" for the Week
A worthy role model

Dennis J. Prutow - Box 303, Sterling, KS 67579

Four thousand years ago, God spoke to a man by the name of Abraham and told him to leave home and family.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8).

Abraham was a wanderer and a nomad. "By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise" (Hebrews 11:9).

Abraham had direction. He was on a search. "He was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

God gave Abraham a promise. "In you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). It is through Jesus Christ, a distant son of Abraham, that God blesses all nations. Abraham "died in faith, without receiving the promises" (Hebrews 11:13).

Abraham did not live to see the coming of Christ but he looked ahead. Jesus said it. "Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (John 8:56).

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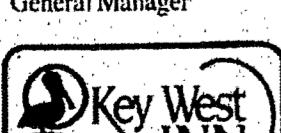
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Palace -- under siege from angry neighbors

uniqueness of Scenic Drive.

Tuggle had the documentation to back up his claims of widespread support. He displayed a letter written on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Alicia Ellis welcomed them into the business community and complimented Tuggle and his mother on their "excellent planning and renovation." She added, "The lovely building will add a great and spacious place for social and business activities for the many functions which are prevalent in our area."

The Palace has also been a good corporate citizen, Tuggle said. Since it opened several months ago, the owners have opened their doors free of charge for a Chamber of Commerce scholarship fundraiser, for the Garden Club Spring Pilgrimage, for the Historical Society Spring Tea, and for the St. Patrick's Day parade kickoff and toast.

"We've even tried to address concerns about a lack of parking (on Fleitas) or parking on Scenic Drive," said Tuggle. "When we've had functions here, we ask people not to park on Scenic Drive. And, the Russell's, who own the Shell Service Station further up on Scenic, said we could use their parking area on Saturday afternoons after they close and on Sundays, if we need more space."

However, he pointed out that over the Christmas holidays, the reception hall hosted a party for a client who had approximately 200 guests. "And, we had no trouble with parking," he said. Tuffle said there is ample parking on Fleitas Ave. and on Second Street at nights and especially on weekends.

Tuffle said, in deference to the historic neighborhood and to nearby neighbors, the establishment decided not to allow hard liquor, but clients renting the premises can bring beer, wine and champagne. He said that although either he or his mom or both would be on the premises during receptions or other activities, they still planned to have a certified security guard on the premises during functions. Tuffle said he also tells prospective clients events would end "on or before midnight."

"This is not the kind of place where we would encourage or allow any hardcore drinking," said Tuffle. "We've got too much invested here." He pointed to a gilded antique clock sitting atop a mantle that Hughes said was worth more than \$1,000.

The owners' renovation of what was once a deteriorating building in an exclusive part of town is impressive.

Outside, there is a new coat of sparkling white paint, and a green canopy over the main entrance. Potted shrubs and etched glass doors welcome visitors. Inside, a white baby grand piano is the focal point of the main reception room, which also boasts an Austrian crystal chandelier. Antique furniture is spread throughout the 12,500-square-foot facility. The four bathrooms have been lavishly restored, as well as the bar area to the rear, which features a wide-screen television.

"I can't tell you how many times during the day when we're sitting here, that people come up and peek through the glass doors," said Tuffle. "We invite them in to see the place, and they all tell us what a wonderful job we've done."

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The owners thought they had taken all the precautions necessary before they signed the act of sale with the VFW directors.

The mayor, Board of Aldermen and Code Enforcement Office also obtained a ruling from Pass Christian city attorney Malcolm Jones. They asked Jones specifically if the non-conforming use enjoyed by the VFW would transfer to the new owners. The non-conforming designation allowed the VFW over several years to run a bar out of the building, and host

receptions and private parties and weekly bingo games.

In an opinion rendered Sept. 21, Jones cited the minutes of a meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment held April 8, 1997, in which the board "acknowledged that this non-conforming use existed and would continue if the property was sold by the VFW."

Jones pointed out further: "The case law on the subject is quite clear." He cited one case where, "the Mississippi Supreme Court has stated that the right to a non-conforming use is a property right. It has

been held that the right to continue a non-conforming use once established and not abandoned, runs with the land." Another ruling he cited states, "The court held that the non-conforming use does not terminate upon change of ownership of the property."

Jones said the city's "Zoning Ordinance provides that a non-conforming property is not considered abandoned until twelve months have past without any activities under the non-conforming use," but the new owners did not allow a year to lapse before resuming business.

The vote Tuesday night seemed to have taken Tuffle and his mother by surprise. Before moving here from Poplar Bluff, Mo., Hughes and Tuffle frequently visited relatives in Gulfport.

"We absolutely fell in love with the quaintness of Pass Christian," said Hughes. "We thought we could offer something to the community, and still hope to become a part of the town."

"We're heartbroken and frustrated," said Hughes. "But, we will appeal."

Steve Kohl, chairman of the

Zoning Board of Adjustments, voted with Ned Boudreaux and Ernest L. Burdette to find the owners were in violation of the zoning ordinance. Willie Cox dissented, and new member Catherine Myers recused herself from voting because she was not on the board to participate in the original discussion.

The board's ruling does not take effect until the minutes are approved at its Feb. 13 meeting. In the meantime, the Palace can continue to host functions already booked, according to Boudreaux's opinion.

Continued from Page 1B

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1/BR, FURNISHED APT. CENTRAL A/H. A. 467-8401.

2 BEDROOM APT. QUIET, \$395. CALL before 9:00 A.M. 466-2631.

2 DEEP WATER LOTS on North Shore Drive, \$33,500. 2 deep water lots on Hollywood Drive. Carolyn Scalife, CRS, GRI, Pager 228-665-6376 or 1-800-892-1602. Prudential Gardner Realty.

SPECIAL
\$85⁰⁰ MOVES YOU IN

CALL US ABOUT OUR

1, 2, 3 SPECIAL

GULF GROVE
APARTMENTS
(228) 467-3122

APARTMENT FOR RENT KILN AREA; Hwy. 603 1200 sq. ft. 586-1889 467-5818.

B.S.L. OLD TOWN 2/BR, 2/BA, CEN. A/H, built-ins, refrigerator, w/d, cable-T.V. utilities included. References. \$675/mo. 466-0554.

BAY ST. LOUIS 1 BEDROOM, newly renovated. Central air/heat, water paid, washer/dryer furnished. \$395/month. 201 S. Nease, 467-2053.

BSL: RECENTLY RENOVATED, 1BDRM apt. BSL/sewage paid. 1 year lease plus deposit. Senior discount. 1st months rent 1/2 price. 452-1922.

CHARMING 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APTS. Near beach, 467-5742.

CONVENIENT, DUNBAR AVE.: 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, \$495/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs, \$450. 467-1393.

FOR RENT: 1/BR, FURNISHED EFFICIENCY apt. All utilities furnished, cable T.V. conveniently located; quiet neighborhood! \$100/dep. \$125/wk. 467-2189.

GREAT MOVE IN SPECIAL!! Great Pass location. One's from \$395; two's from \$415; and three's from \$525. Call 452-9901.

LARGE 1/BR, COTTAGE, FURNISHED, boat-dock, pool, near Casino Magic. \$525/month, \$300/deposit. 467-5628 or 388-4501.

NEW BEACHFRONT APT. Stove, refrigerator and dishwasher included. 1 bedroom, \$445. 3 bedroom \$595. 467-9978.

OAK PARK APARTMENTS IN Waveland. 2 bedroom apartments at \$495. Call about our specials plus 10% off seniors 55 and over. 467-6882.

SPACIOUS APT. HWY 603 B.S.L. 1, 2, or 3 bedrooms available now! From \$395-\$575 monthly, deposit equals rent. 466-545-2111.

WATERFRONT 1500 SQ.FT. Large living room, dining room, 2 bedrooms, lots of closets. All kitchen appliances, large deck. \$550/month plus deposit. 467-1962.

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR 303 Favre. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Call 467-4774 if no answer leave message.

OLD TOWN- LOVELY 3 BD/2 BTH, quiet shady yard 1/2 block to beach, central H&A, all appliances included covered parking. 116 Carroll. 255-0108. mth/\$600 deposit.

PASS CHRISTIAN: 2BR AND 3BR ON quiet street. Central heat/air, fenced yard, pets ok. Section 8 welcome. 466-9134.

SHORELINE PARK: 2 BR/1 BA/WASH/dry conn. Lg. Lot/Private. \$560/mo/\$550/dep. H. Wheeler Realty Svc. 228-467-4938.

SMALL 2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH. W/D hook-ups, screen porch. \$465/month, \$350/dep. 467-5653.

SMALL 2/BR, 1/BA, AC/HEAT LARGE SCREENED porch garage workshop fenced yard pet-free 1/2 block from beach. Clermont Harbor. Water/sewer garbage & lawn cutting included. \$600/mo. + deposit. Day 601-798-5720 Night 228-466-3151.

CLEAN, 1BR, 1BA, WATERFRONT, AC/heat, pet-free, smoke-free, \$265/month, \$200/deposit. Partial utilities. Sailfish Realty. 467-1380.

FURNISHED SMALL 1 BEDROOM, \$100/week, \$100/deposit. Lights & cable included. 463-1795, 467-0610.

NICE TRAILER FOR RENT: PET-FREE. 467-0853.

DEATH FORCES REPO! 1984 Redman Doublewide. Financing available. Call 1-800-701-4019.

INSURANCE FOR YOUR MOBILE HOMES: Best prices on the coast. Easy monthly payments. Call Paul Smith Insurance Agency, 467-4607 or 467-0039.

NICE TRAILER FOR RENT: PET-FREE. 467-0853.

148 Mobile Homes For Rent

BSL: 2/BR 1/BA, TOTAL ELECTRIC. Partial furnished mobile home, 2530 Wolf Creek Rd. 228-255-7288.

2 BEDROOM TRAILER FOR RENT. Kiln area. 255-5529.

2/BR, 2/BA, VERY CLEAN \$450 DEPOSIT. \$1450 month. 463-1534.

3 BEDROOM 1 BATH, UNFURNISHED trailer. \$600/month, \$300/deposit. Lights & cable included. 463-1795, 467-0610.

CLEAN, 1BR, 1BA, WATERFRONT, AC/heat, pet-free, smoke-free, \$265/month, \$200/deposit. Partial utilities. Sailfish Realty. 467-1380.

FURNISHED SMALL 1 BEDROOM, \$100/week, \$100/deposit. Lights & cable included. 463-1795, 467-0610.

WATERFRONT HOME 5/BR, 2/BA, CENTRAL a/h, BSL area, Garden Isles. Monthly \$1,000. 1-504-737-6885.

NICE TRAILER FOR RENT: PET-FREE. 467-0853.

149 Mobile Homes For Sale

DEATH FORCES REPO! 1984 Redman Doublewide. Financing available. Call 1-800-701-4019.

INSURANCE FOR YOUR MOBILE HOMES: Best prices on the coast. Easy monthly payments. Call Paul Smith Insurance Agency, 467-4607 or 467-0039.

NICE TRAILER FOR RENT: PET-FREE. 467-0853.

149 Mobile Homes For Sale

153 Commercial Property

215 HIGHWAY 90, WAVELEND. GOOD location, heavy traffic, small building, 504-286-3819 leave message on record.

DOCTOR OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE. 1200 sq. ft. next to Hancock Medical Center, \$850/mo. 467-8392 467-5516.

FOR RENT: 1200 SQ. FT. COMMERCIAL building. Downtown Bay St. Louis. 586-2344.

OFFICE RENTAL SPACE HWY 90 Waveland across from Hancock Bank & Our Shopping Center. \$475/mo. 467-0244.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE: HWY 90 1200 sq. ft. Call 467-4437 467-5516.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR lease 804 Hwy 90 BSL. 1200 square feet 467-4594.

You are not required to file a petition, but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this 12 day of Jan, 2001.

(Seal)

159 Houses For Sale

2/BR, 1/BA, HOUSE. LARGE FENCED yard, giving to Real Estate Company. It one week. Price will go up, 466-2852.

BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED 245 Pineridge Dr., Waveland, 3BR, 5 years old, cathedral ceilings, fireplace, deck with small fenced yard. Excellent condition, just move in. Call Gold Coast 228-467-4479 or 228-467-5990

HEIRS AT LAW OF CECILIA P. SANchez DECEASED, AND TO ALL PERSONS KNOWN OR UNKNOWN WHO ARE OR CLAIM TO BE HEIRS AT LAW OF CECILIA P. SANchez DECEASED. SUMMONS NO. 99-0074

TO: THE UNKNOWN OR KNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST AS HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF CECILIA P. SANchez DECEASED.

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR AND DEFEND AGAINST THE PETITION FILED IN THIS COURT BY CAMILLE R. FLETCHER, PETITIONER.

The Petitioner filed against you is a civil action seeking to have Camille R. Fletcher, Ronald Weathers, Galen West, Helen A. Lannon, deceased, and Pamela Cuevas, deceased, jointly and severally liable to the Plaintiff for damages in the amount of \$100,000.00, plus interest, and costs of suit, and attorney's fees.

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 4th day of January, 20

